

What's Your Opinion?

Do You Have All the Facts on Obama's Health-Care Bill?

Dear Friends:

As an emergency doctor, I am particularly aware of and concerned for the availability of superior yet affordable health care for all Americans. While good people can debate whether or not health care is a basic right, no one wants innocent people to suffer. As a front line health care provider, I see the way our current system works on a daily basis. As most of you know, I am basically apolitical but this is so important that I am taking this very unusual step of writing to you at this crucial juncture in America's history. So much of the rhetoric from the White House and Congress seems aimed at diverting attention away from what is actually contained in the bill itself. Those who oppose the bill are characterized as fear-mongers, obstructionists, or far worse.

So, here is a summary of a few of its salient contents. If you don't believe what the summary says, please cross-reference the full text of the bill here and see for yourself at <http://docs.house.gov/edlabor/AAHCA-BillText-071409.pdf>.

This is not the kind of "change" that Americans voted for in electing President Obama. Instead, this is a radical reorganization and, indeed, takeover of 16% of the American economy - at a time when we, as a nation, can ill afford such a massive expenditure of money and expansion of bureaucracy. Eighty-nine percent (89%) of Americans polled think their existing health care plans are just fine. Sure, there are parts of the insurance industry that need reform, but why not tweak those parts? Why is it so important to rush through a bill that will nationalize the entire medical industry? Instead, why not work on Tort Reform which, if passed, would instantaneously cause health care and health insurance prices to plummet? Why not get Medicare and Medicaid (already broke according to the White House) to work first before expanding those programs to include everyone? These and many other questions need to be addressed in a well-reasoned way.

If you agree with the ideas expressed in the actual bill (not simply what you have heard put forth from either side of the debate) then, by all means, support it. If you do not, then I urge you to please join the millions of other Americans on both sides of the political spectrum who oppose this radical legislation by contacting your elected representatives to voice your opinion against it.

Thank you for seriously considering this. If you feel that it is helpful, please feel free to forward this to your friends.

All best wishes,
Mona Balogh, M.D.