

Republican Perspective
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by Ed Manning

BROKEN PROMISES

“But what the Secretary (Clinton) neglected to mention, not just the 29 million that still have no health insurance, that even more are underinsured with huge copayments and deductibles.” Bernie Sanders, Vermont Senator

If you wonder why many Americans no longer trust our elected representatives, look no further than the lies told in order to pass the Affordable Care Act (ACA), aka Obamacare. Here is a brief summary of a few of the falsehoods:

- Promise: “If you like your health care plan, you’ll be able to keep your health care plan, period.”
- Promise: “That means that no matter how we reform health care, we will keep this promise to the American people: If you like your doctor, you will be able to keep your doctor, period.”
- Promise: “In an Obama administration, we’ll lower premiums by up to \$2,500 for a typical family per year.”
- Promise: “For the 85 and 90 percent of Americans who already have health insurance, this thing’s already happened. And their only impact is that their insurance is stronger, better and more secure than it was before. That’s it. They don’t have to worry about anything else.”
- Promise: “Under my plan, no family making less than \$250,000 a year will see any form of tax increase.”
- Promise: “I will not sign a plan that adds one dime to our deficits—either now or in the future.”
- Promise: “Whatever ideas exist in terms of bending the cost curve and starting to reduce costs for families, businesses, and government, those elements are in this bill.”
- Promise: “So this law means more choice, more competition, lower costs for millions of Americans.”

The ACA called for the establishment of Consumer Operated and Oriented Plans Programs (CO-OPS), intended to foster the creation of qualified nonprofit health insurance issuers. CO-OPS would offer competitive health plans in the individual and small group markets.

23 states established CO-OPS, receiving \$2.4 billion in low-interest federal loans from we tax-payers. Their business model was typically to offer underpriced plans backed

with an implicit guarantee of federal tax dollars to cover any losses. A 2015 report from the Department of Health and Human Services found that all but one (Maine) of the 23 remaining CO-OPS had lost money in 2014, with a total shortfall of \$376 million. The report also found that overall enrollment was 100,000 people short of initial projections.

Today, 16 of the 23 CO-OPS have failed, causing 740,000 Americans to scramble to find health insurance. Further, these failures have not paid back a single dollar of the \$1.2 billion federal tax payers loans they received. Progressive socialist Democrats originally promoted the CO-OPS, as a government-run plan to be offered alongside private plans in the health exchanges set up in the states.

The cost of Obamacare is unsustainable. United Health Care (the nation's largest health insurer), Aetna and Humana have all said they are exiting many of the Obamacare exchanges due to large financial losses. Premiums in 2017 are predicted to soar with many states facing double-digit increases (Georgia + 65%, Florida + 14%, Oregon +29%, Pennsylvania + 38%, New York +24%).

Despite the CO-OPS failures and health premium increases, Progressive socialist Democrats propose to expand tax credits and allow illegal aliens to have access to health insurance exchanges. Also, they propose to allow people over 50 or 55 to purchase Medicare plans.

House Republicans have offered a "Better Way." They want to put individuals in charge of their health care by providing incentives to shop around, just like Americans do for car & homeowners insurances. They wish to expand the use of tax-advantaged Health Savings Accounts and Health Reimbursement Accounts. For those who do not have access to job-based coverage, Medicare, or Medicaid, their plan provides a universal advanceable, refundable tax credit for individuals and families. This is a portable payment and available at the beginning of every month. Americans could use this money to purchase a health plan of their choice.

If you wish to see further cuts in Medicare and embark towards a path of a single-payer federal government health care system (think Veteran's Administration) then vote for a Progressive socialist Democrat. In the words of Obamacare architect, MIT's Jonathan Gruber: "call it the stupidity of the American voter..."