

# Why is a Washington Takeover of Health Care Wrong for America?

- **You would lose your freedom to choose the right health insurance for you and your family.** Under the plans Congress is pushing right now, the federal government would force everyone to buy the type of health insurance it dictates – and if you don't, you'll pay a tax. If you can't afford that tax, you could be penalized with up to a \$25,000 fine or up to a year in jail. If Congress includes a government-run health insurance plan (the "public option"), millions of Americans would lose their private health insurance and be prodded into joining that plan – even if they are happy with their current coverage.
- **You could lose your doctor.** The mantra that "If you like your doctor, you can keep him/her" sadly would not be true. A shocking survey by *Investor's Business Daily* showed that **45 percent of doctors said they would consider leaving the profession** if Washington's plans come to pass.
- **You and your family will wait longer for the care you need.** Several of the health insurance "reform" plans in Congress are modeled on legislation that already exists in Massachusetts. But patients in Massachusetts must wait up to 100 days to see a primary care physician as a result of that state's government-forced insurance. And health care costs there have **gone up!**
- **You could be denied life-saving care.** Earlier this year, Congress approved funding for a national board to oversee the "effectiveness" of health care services. It is modeled on the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) in Great Britain, which rations care on a cost-benefit basis through the British National Health Service. NICE calculates the value of extending human life, and won't pay for the care it deems too expensive.
- **Health insurance premiums would very likely increase.** A new government agency would define "acceptable coverage" for all Americans, driving up the cost of premiums with numerous mandates and regulations.
- **Jobs would be lost.** New taxes on employers would kill jobs and would especially hurt small businesses. At a time when we have double-digit unemployment, government shouldn't be punishing businesses for hiring more workers.

## What Could Work?

Patients First believes we need health reform. We need to focus reforms on the people who really need help, and make sure all reforms put patients first. We favor reforms that ensure **patients' rights will be protected from special interests**. There are a lot of good ideas out there that don't involve putting the federal government in charge of health care. Here are just a few:

- Tax credits for all income levels
- Portable health insurance
- Buying health insurance across state lines
- Lawsuit-abuse reform

Please visit [JoinPatientsFirst.com](http://JoinPatientsFirst.com), and sign the "Hands Off My Health Care" Petition.

