

The Push For Government Run Health Care

Some politicians would have you believe that the current debate surrounding health care has nothing to do with government-run health care. *The evidence to the contrary is clear ...*

US Senate Panel Roundtable Debates Govt Health-Care Option: Health insurers, business groups and lawmakers in a Senate hearing Tuesday (May 5) debated proposals to create a public option for health insurance. ¹

He [Obama] said he has told GOP leaders,

“Look, on health reform you may not agree with me that we should have a public plan. That may be philosophically just too much for you to swallow.” ²

“The advantage of a public plan is it would have very low, or almost nonexistent, administrative costs compared to others.” ³

– Nancy-Ann DeParle, White House Office of Health Reform

After weeks of disagreement over a government-run, public insurance option, the Senate Finance Committee summoned leading foes and proponents of the concept Tuesday to hash out what is becoming the most critical sticking point so far in the debate over health care reform. ⁴

“We must commit ourselves to universal coverage, improved quality of care, and increased affordability,” she said in her Jan. 10, 2007 state of the state address. ⁵

– Former Governor and current HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi

said the House this year will consider health-care legislation including an option for a government-run program that would compete with insurers. ⁶



Pelosi said the Democratic-controlled House will be “aggressive” in its approach to a health-care overhaul, which is a centerpiece of Obama’s agenda. She said a government role in health care will help U.S. companies be more competitive. ⁷

His (Sen. Charles Schumer) idea was tepidly received by insurance execs — but might provide political cover to handful of moderates (Yep, Specter, Snowe and Collins) who are expressing increasing concerns that the public part of the reform will quickly evolve into an all-consuming single-payer system. ⁸

On January 26, 2009, Congressman John Conyers introduced H.R. 676, a universal health care bill with single payer. The legislation has 76 co-sponsors. ⁹

Three powerful House committee chairmen have agreed to work together on legislation to overhaul the health care system, starting with the view that most employers should help finance coverage and that the government should offer a public health insurance plan as an alternative to private insurance ... The three chairmen, George Miller and Henry A. Waxman of California and Charles B. Rangel of New York, all Democrats, have a combined total of more than 100 years of service in the House. ¹⁰

Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky admits Obama Health Care Plan will destroy private health care industry and public option plan is a strategy towards single payer. ¹¹



On March 25, 2009, Senator Bernie Sanders introduced legislation for a single payer plan. ¹²

The Progressive Caucus in the House at the minimum supports a “government-run” insurance and a number of their members favor a single payer plan. ¹³

Exactly 40 years ago, **Sen. Ted Kennedy** popularized the idea of universal health care, saying the country needed a program “capable of bringing the same amount and high quality of health care to every man, woman and child in the United States.” Seven presidents and millions of uninsured Americans later, the Massachusetts Democrat is still chasing that elusive goal. ¹⁴



A key player here is Ways and Means Health Subcommittee Chairman Pete Stark, whose main purpose in politics is to give the U.S. a government-run health-care system. He is a known opponent of HSAs — once comparing them to “weapons of mass destruction” — because they introduce more individual choice into the health-care market-place. ¹⁵

And just for the record, **President Obama** has previously voiced support for a government single payer plan.

“I happen to be a proponent of a single payer universal health care plan....that’s what I’d like to see.” ¹⁶



Sources:

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