

# *World Congress Leadership Summit on Health Care Reform*



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## **The Consumer: How Does Health Care Reform Really Impact Them?**

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# *Baseline Consumer Benefits: President Obama's Speech*

## *Three Objectives*

- It will provide more security and stability to those who have health insurance.
- It will provide insurance for those who don't.
- It will slow the growth of health care costs for our families, our businesses, and our government.



# *Effect on Existing Consumers of Health Insurance Services*

- Nothing in this plan will require you or your employer to change the coverage or the doctor you have.
- Against the law for insurance companies to deny you coverage because of a preexisting condition.
- Will place a limit on how much you can be charged for out-of-pocket expenses.
- (Insurers) required to cover, with no extra charge, routine checkups and preventive care



# *Effect on Consumers Who Do Not Have Access to Health Insurance*

## *Quality, affordable choices:*

- A new insurance exchange -- a marketplace where individuals and small businesses will be able to shop for health insurance at competitive prices
- As one big group, these customers will have greater leverage to bargain with the insurance companies for better prices and quality coverage.
- Tax credits, the size of which will be based on your need.
- Individuals will be required to carry basic health insurance -- just as most states require you to carry auto insurance.



# *Effect on Consumers as Taxpayers*

- (Will) not sign a plan that adds one dime to our deficits -- either now or in the future.
- Most of this plan can be paid for by finding savings within the existing health care system.
- Reducing the waste and inefficiency in Medicare and Medicaid will pay for most of this plan.
- Much of the rest would be paid for with revenues from the very same drug and insurance companies that stand to benefit from tens of millions of new customers.
- Will charge insurance companies a fee for their most expensive policies, which will encourage them to provide greater value for the money.



# *Effect on Medicare Consumers*

- Not a dollar of the Medicare trust fund will be used to pay for this plan.
- (Will) eliminate ... hundreds of billions of dollars in waste and fraud, as well as unwarranted subsidies in Medicare that go to insurance companies.
- Use some of the savings to fill the gap in coverage that forces too many seniors to pay thousands of dollars a year out of their own pockets for prescription drugs.
- Commission can help encourage the adoption of ... best practices by doctors and medical professionals throughout the system -- reducing hospital infection rates ... encouraging better coordination between teams of doctors.



# *Distinguished Panelists*

- **William R. Boyles**, Publisher, Interpro Publications Inc., **HealthPlanMarkets / Consumer Driven Market Report**
- **David B. Kendall**, Senior Fellow for Health and Fiscal Policy, **Third Way**
- **Larry C. McNeely II**, Health Care Advocate, **U.S. PIRG (Public Interest Research Group)**



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