

# **THE TRUTH ABOUT THE OBAMA PLAN...AND WHAT WE REALLY NEED**

## **THE PRESENT HEALTH CARE SYSTEM**

- 50 million uninsured
- 70 million underinsured
- 60% of personal bankruptcies caused by medical expenses
- 18,000 annual deaths from lack of medical attention (because of lack of medical insurance)
- 17% of our GDP -- \$2.4 trillion total or \$7,900 per person in 2008

## **THE OBAMA PLAN (H.R. 3200)**

### TENTATIVE PROS

- A public option may lower uninsured rates, force private insurers to perform more favorably towards their customers, and lower drug costs through the government's bargaining power.
- H.R. 3200 may outlaw the rescission of policies based on serious illnesses and the pricing of policies based on pre-existing conditions, gender, or occupation.
- H.R. 3200 may bar private insurers from placing limits on health coverage and may put a cap on our annual out-of-pocket expenses.
- H.R. 3200 may set a federal mandate to cover all mental illnesses and elective abortions.

### DEFINITE CONS

- There will be no public option until 2013, and it will only cover 10 million people that year.
- The public health program will be very small because of set eligibility restrictions. You will be qualified to purchase it only if you are completely uninsured or have inadequate coverage. Hence, it is not quite an "option."
- It will cut \$400 billion in Medicare and Medicaid services.
- H.R. 3200 will make health care insurance mandatory. Anyone who chooses not to -- or cannot afford to -- purchase insurance coverage will pay a fine equivalent to 2.5% of his/her salary. CBO anticipates to raise 28 billion off uninsured fees!
- The most the Obama Plan will cover even ten years from now is 94% of Americans. This is NOT universal health care.
- It will not get rid of the bane of our health care system -- private insurers, pharmaceutical companies, and other health care profiteers.

## **A SINGLE-PAYER SYSTEM**

### PROS

- It will make health care a right, not just a privilege.
- Everybody in, nobody out!
- There will be no private insurers to deny claims for profit and raise premiums to financially support their bureaucracy.
- We can expect to save \$350 billion -- enough to provide comprehensive health care to everyone in America.

### ONE BIG CON

- It will not erase health profiteering completely. Pharmaceutical companies and other for-profit medical institutions will continue to want to treat us as commodities.

## **WHAT WORKING PEOPLE REALLY NEED**

A single-payer health care system is not enough. We need a completely nationalized medical industry, entirely devoid of for-profit interests! ✱

