



# THE IMPACT OF OBAMACARE

From the Frontlines of Our Health Care Crisis

# THE IMPACT OF OBAMACARE



## **America's health care system needs reform, but not the sort of changes enacted under the new health care law.**

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (commonly referred to as “Obamacare”) moves our health care system in the wrong direction. This highly unpopular law asserts federal control over health care benefits and financing, establishes a complex one-size-fits-all health system, and centralizes America's health care decisions in Washington. In this booklet, you will learn how everyday Americans will be impacted by this new law.

**Instead, Congress should transform the health care system into one that empowers individuals and families—not Washington—to control more of their health care decisions.**

**For up-to-the-minute news on Obamacare, interactive tools to explore the fiscal impact of changing our health care system, and proposed solutions from experts at The Heritage Foundation, [log on to heritage.org/healthcare](http://logon.to/heritage.org/healthcare)**

# THE IMPACT OF OBAMACARE ON THE UNINSURED



*“I started this new job which didn’t come with health insurance, so I am looking at my options. I could buy a low-cost plan for myself, with a very high deductible... which **could** fit into my budget. But I would rather take that money and invest it into living a healthy lifestyle—eating healthy, exercising, those sort of things—to be proactive about my health instead of paying for care after I get sick. If it turns out that (under Obamacare) it’s substantially cheaper to pay the penalty than to buy insurance, I’m probably going to pay the penalty.”*

—Clark Rupert

Employee at Non-Profit Organization | Arlington, Virginia

## OBAMACARE FACTS AND FIGURES...

- Those who gain coverage will be **enrolled in Medicaid**, the welfare program for the poor, or in a health plan designed by the government.
- The **millions who remain uninsured** will still depend on overcrowded emergency rooms for routine care.

## THE SOLUTION...

**Give tax relief or direct assistance** and provide portability for those who buy their own health care coverage, allowing individual Americans to take their insurance coverage from job to job.

Visit [heritage.org/healthcare](http://heritage.org/healthcare) to read our full report, “Obamacare: Impact on the Uninsured”

# THE IMPACT OF OBAMACARE ON FAMILIES



*“Obamacare undermines parental consent and I have a great deal of concern about that. When I was growing up, my parents had absolute control over what I did, until I reached the age of 18 and started taking care of myself. Parents are in the best position to determine what their kids’ needs are, absolutely. If my teenage daughter became pregnant, the last thing I need is a government consultant telling her what to do.”*

—Larry Patterson  
Father of Four Children | Dallas, Texas

## OBAMACARE FACTS AND FIGURES...

- Obamacare provides **\$125 million** per year for school-based health centers and a new program to reduce teen pregnancy, with no requirement to reduce abortions.
- These federally funded projects **deny parents any knowledge** about the services their children receive.

## THE SOLUTION...

Rather than bureaucrats and lobbyists prescribing health care benefits and services, **respect the role of families on moral decisions** involving their health care.

Visit [heritage.org/healthcare](http://heritage.org/healthcare) to read our full report, “Obamacare: Impact on the Family”

# THE IMPACT OF OBAMACARE ON SENIORS



*“As I get older, I’m going to require more services and medications to continue to be a productive individual for society. The breakthrough innovations of coming years require medical research taking place, which will become increasingly important. It will provide a future for me and for people like myself, who can be a very positive force in volunteering and so forth. Most of us are doing things for society... and society’s going to lose that.”*

—John Kemper  
Retired Businessman | Northfield, Illinois

Visit [heritage.org/healthcare](http://heritage.org/healthcare) to read our full reports, “Obamacare: Impact on Seniors” and “Obamacare: Impact on Taxpayers”

## OBAMACARE FACTS AND FIGURES...

- Nearly one-quarter of all seniors rely on Medicare Advantage, the private health care option in Medicare. However, Obamacare makes such deep cuts to that program that **half of those covered** will no longer be able to keep the coverage they have.
- **New taxes on drug companies** (\$27 billion) and **medical device makers** (\$20 billion), as well as new reporting requirements and regulations imposed on physicians, will make access to health care and services more costly and difficult for seniors under Obamacare.

## THE SOLUTION...

**Give seniors greater choice of doctors**, private health plans, and services under Medicare.

# THE IMPACT OF OBAMACARE ON DOCTORS



*“I have two employees who work full-time fighting Medicare and Medicaid. I absolutely detest that I have to fight the government to get paid for work that I have done. I never imagined that I would have to become politically active to take good care of my patients—it’s added a whole other element to the life of being a doctor. If a person who has 17 diplomas cannot afford a 1,500 square foot office, what does that tell the young people of our country about education?”*

—Dr. Martha Boone  
Urologist | Atlanta, Georgia

Visit [heritage.org/healthcare](https://heritage.org/healthcare) to read our full report,  
“Obamacare: Impact on Doctors”

## OBAMACARE FACTS AND FIGURES...

- Obamacare expands government’s role as the primary payer of health care by **adding 18 million people to the Medicaid program**, which on average reimburses doctors only 56 percent of the market rate for medical procedures.
- Due to increased regulation and less reimbursement, **66 percent of doctors** are considering no longer accepting government health programs.

## THE SOLUTION...

To make the costs of health care more predictable and sustainable for providers, **fix Medicare and Medicaid** by allowing patients to choose coverage that best suit them.



# THE IMPACT OF OBAMACARE ON STATES



*“Virginia has its own statute related to health insurance, passed on a bipartisan basis this year. We call it the Health Care Freedom Act, and it protects Virginia’s citizens from any individual health insurance mandate. Of course, federal laws typically trump state laws—but not when the federal law is unconstitutional. We view our lawsuit not merely as being about health care; this case is about protecting the Constitution. If we lose, it is very much the end of federalism as we’ve known it for over 220 years.”*

—Ken Cuccinelli  
Attorney General | Commonwealth of Virginia

## OBAMACARE FACTS AND FIGURES...

- By 2019, **over 80 million people** will be on the Medicaid program—requiring billions of dollars from state budgets and taxpayers.
- Twenty-one State Attorneys General have filed suits to protect their citizens from being forced, **in violation of the Constitution**, to purchase government approved health insurance.

## THE SOLUTION...

Because no two states are alike, **promote federal-state partnerships** to accommodate the unique and diverse health care challenges facing the states.

Visit [heritage.org/healthcare](http://heritage.org/healthcare) to read our full report, **“Obamacare: Impact on States”**

# THE IMPACT OF OBAMACARE ON BUSINESSES



*"I have had a small business in lawn care since 2006, taking care of residential accounts and athletic fields. However, a big corporation recently acquired my business—I sold it mostly based on health care costs increasing. Obamacare is not about health care, it's about control. For small businesses, I don't see how you can get away without raising your prices to be able to pay for this. We aren't asking for a handout, just not as many obstacles and regulations forced upon us by the government."*

—Pete Haakon  
Former Small Business Owner | Lorton, Virginia

## OBAMACARE FACTS AND FIGURES...

- **\$52 billion in new taxes** imposed on businesses by mandating employers provide health insurance.
- New IRS reporting requirements and other business-related taxes and regulations will also **penalize growth and success.**

## THE SOLUTION...

**Encourage portability of health insurance** so that workers own their health care plan regardless of job or job status, and allow employers to decide how much they wish to contribute towards their employees' health care costs.

**Visit [heritage.org/healthcare](http://heritage.org/healthcare) to read our full report, "Obamacare: Impact on Businesses"**



# THE IMPACT OF OBAMACARE ON YOUR FUTURE



*Families like yours should have complete control of your health care dollars and decisions. In addition to portability of health insurance (see previous page), policymakers should press for transparency in health care—with prices of medical goods and services clear and uncorrupted from excessive government interference. Health plans and providers should compete on a level playing field in a free, open, interstate market. Following this path, you would be able to buy the health insurance plan you want, at a price you are willing to pay, and ultimately receive better quality health care at lower cost.*

Visit [heritage.org/healthcare](http://heritage.org/healthcare) to read our full report, “Obamacare: Impact on Future Generations”

## OBAMACARE FACTS AND FIGURES...

- Obamacare **adds a trillion dollars in new health care spending**, creating prohibitively expensive new entitlements for long-term care and a subsidy scheme that discourages work and penalizes marriage.
- Obamacare will impose about a half a trillion dollars in new taxes and will **increase the deficit by \$500 billion** over the next 10 years, a massive burden on the next generation of taxpayers.

## THE SOLUTION...

Rein in runaway spending and deficits. Rather than creating new government-run health care programs, **implement sound fiscal policies** to avert the crisis facing America's existing entitlements (Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security).



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## Leadership *for* America Ten Transformational Initiatives

This brochure is part of the **Health Care Initiative**, one of 10 Transformational Initiatives making up The Heritage Foundation's Leadership for America campaign. For more products and information related to these Initiatives or to learn more about the Leadership for America campaign, please visit [heritage.org](http://heritage.org).



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