

TODAY'S "SHORT TOPIC"

E.J. DIONNE MOVES THE OBAMACARE GOAL LINE – THEN CLAIMS SUCCESS!



By Stephen L. Bakke  March 5, 2015

Here's what provoked me:

A column by E.J. Dionne misses the point of most of us who oppose ObamaCare. Healthcare insurance reform was very necessary and a congressional vote and then a stroke of the presidential pen could have accomplished the "good stuff" – all without meddling! The legislation must be fixed in some way!

Here's my response:

E.J. Dionne Moves the Obamacare Goal Line – Then Claims Success!

E.J. Dionne can't stop "carrying the President's water"! ("Obamacare repeal could hurt"-3-2-15) His message:

- Criticisms of Obamacare are remarkably "fact-free."
- Its problems are mere distractions exaggerated by critics.
- Success is measured by reduction in the uninsured by 10,000,000.
- Slowdown in cost inflation.

Dionne's comments highlight the changing measures of success:

- Assurances were given that Obamacare would virtually eliminate uninsured Americans – over 40,000,000 at that time. Democrats are now trying to define success as ONLY 25% of their stated goal.
- When debated, the total cost of the legislation was estimated to be under \$1 trillion in the "early years" of implementation. CBO has now pushed that up to \$2 trillion and beyond. For every newly insured American, it would have been cheaper to write each one of them a check for \$200,000.
- Many claims of "cost inflation" have been aided by introducing tortured computations that recognize only comparisons of costs to subsidized individuals, not total societal costs. The Manhattan Institute estimates that costs have gone up by almost 50%.

Healthcare insurance reform was very necessary and a congressional vote and the stroke of the presidential pen could have accomplished the "good stuff." It must be fixed!