

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

REDUCED OBAMACARE COSTS? : It's Not What You Think – Or Hope!

By Stephen L. Bakke  April 23, 2014



Here's what provoked me:

It seems we hear only whispers about how much more health care will cost the economy! The really loud voices come from the liberals and the Obama Administration who toss out constant examples of how we are saving money with ObamaCare. Any reasonably intelligent person knows that both can't be true! The problem with the O-Admin is that they selectively choose anecdotes that support their premise of cost savings. And the CBO released a report which seemed to be "good news" for ObamaCare, but in fact it's NOT at all redeeming! Here I tried to pull the facts all together in one place in order to provide a brief explanation of the "BIG PICTURE." Hopefully then it might be easier to draw the correct conclusions. That's not easy to do in the "200 or so" words permitted – but I gave it a shot and it seemed to work!

Here's my response:

Reduced ObamaCare costs? It's not what you think – or hope!

The CBO has released the results of their recent report which adjusts projected ObamaCare costs downward by about \$100 billion over the next ten years. When you analyze this issue, please remember:

- This is a revision of a study only about 2 months old.
- That earlier study projected the costs to be far higher than claimed when the law was debated.
- Thus the reported "reduction" still means ObamaCare costs will be materially higher than projected during the legislative debate.
- This reduction is only about a 7% reduction, and that's spread over 10 years – only about 10 billion a year.

Also remember:

- The CBO's reported "savings" covers ONLY the taxpayers' cost for healthcare subsidies, etc.
- It does NOT reflect the costs to individual policy owners, whose costs are going way up overall!

The reality is:

- Anecdotal examples of individuals experiencing lower costs under ObamaCare apply mostly to a relatively small number of SUBSIDIZED individuals.
- If the person has subsidized insurance, that doesn't mean it's cheaper, just that SOMEONE ELSE is paying for it – i.e. other policy owners and taxpayers.
- BOTH policy owners AND taxpayers are paying more for healthcare, EACH AS A GROUP and IN THE AGGREGATE!
- TOTAL COSTS are materially higher!

And these trillions of dollars have given us:

- **The CBO's latest estimate is that there could STILL be over 30 million uninsured in the country. ObamaCare has missed its goal, accomplished very little, and seriously damaged our economy.**