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Stephen L. Bakke 灣 February 23, 2014

This is the first of a two part report on some real craziness that's coming out of this administration and from the democrats in congress. In Part One, I will introduce the facts as I understand them, provide liberal politicians' and administration comments, and throw in a little personal commentary. In the next report I will continue my commentary and focus more on some opposition reaction.

Hey SB! The Congressional Budget Office just released a report disclosing that ObamaCare will cause people to work less – for several reasons! And would you believe the Administration and the democrats in Washington are saying that's a good thing?! It's a good thing, they say, because citizens now have the freedom to work less, or even not to work, because they can still get health care. But apparently no one has to pay for it! This is just one more unbelievable "spintale"! You just can't make this stuff up! I'm afraid we're looking right in the bloodshot eyes of true fraud and stupidity! – Stefano Bachovich – obscure curmudgeon and wise political pundit – a prolific purveyor of opinions on just about everything – my primary "go to guy."

## Another inalienable right? Freedom from work? SHEESH!!

The Congressional Budget office reported about two weeks ago that due to work disincentives in ObamaCare, the workforce will be reduced by approximately 2 million "equivalent" workers by 2017, by 2.3 million by 2021, and almost 2.5 million by 2024. I must add that this is just the impact of the disincentives for employees. **This doesn't even consider the generally accepted impact of employers' future decisions to hire fewer employees, and to reduce some employees to part-time** – all this in order to make budgetary adjustments to offset dramatic increases in health care costs benefit costs. Most of the impact on businesses won't be experienced for another year or so, and beyond, since Obama unilaterally changed the law to "kick-in" at his convenience!

Here are statements from the CBO and its Director, Doug Elmendorf:

... by providing heavily subsidized health insurance to people with very low income and then withdrawing those subsidies as income rises, the Act creates a disincentive for people to work. – Doug Elmendorf, Direct of the CBO



Some provision will raise effective tax rates on earnings from labor and thus will reduce the amount of labor that some workers choose to supply. – CBO report

(ObamaCare subsidies allow) some people to maintain the same standard of living while working less ..... subsidies decline with rising income (and increase as income falls), thus making work less attractive ..... (the penalties and taxes) will ultimately induce some workers to supply less labor. – CBO report

..... some employers will respond to the penalty by hiring fewer people at or just above the minimum wage – an effect that would be similar to the impact of raising the minimum wage for those companies' employees ...... (and) employers have an incentive, for example, to shift from hiring a single 40-hour, full time employee to hiring two, 20hour part-time employees to avoid bearing the costs of the penalty. – CBO report

(ObamaCare) effectively raises peoples's marginal tax rates ...... The structure of the tax code – in which rising incomes push some people into higher tax brackets – will also reduce labor force participation slightly – CBO report

In other words, certain lower and middle class citizens will choose to limit their hours under ObamaCare in order not to rise on the ladder of wealth, just to retain their significant subsidies under Medicare. They will choose mediocrity of accomplishment over long-term success. Ambition is shuffled aside under ObamaCare. Could anybody argue that the proponents of "freedom from work" are not promoting complacency, dependency and mediocrity?

Ambition and hard work have been the fuel of our country's success engine. It seems that attitude seems is in danger of fading away. Lower and middle class Americans are ultimately discouraged from working more and harder. Energy and ambition are significantly quieted. They've always been major factors in our growing economy. We are **"letting the air out of the economic tire"** with our excess paternalism. Lower income employees are given incentives **NOT** to move into higher paying jobs. Yet these employees will have increased entitlements from ObamaCare. And who do you think is paying for this "freedom" for a few to work less, or not work at all? HMMMM?

While ObamaCare is (in the words of the Democrats) providing freedom to choose among job alternatives, let's not forget that it's also giving employers a choice. Employers are expressing their intention to hire less aggressively, or to reduce individuals' hours to escape the financial burden of the higher insurance costs. And what group of workers does this impact the most? Those who are lowest paid!



Here is some of the absolute nonsense being spun by this group of sadly incompetent economic authorities and department officials:

*(Families can now) make a decision about how they will work, and if they will work.* – Charles Krauthammer quoting Obama's Press Secretary, Jay Carney.

*This is not business cutting back on jobs. This is people having choices ...... that in their case might be a better choice and a better option than what they had before.* – Jason Furman, Obama's Chairman of the Council of economic Advisors.

**(ObamaCare is a godsend for the) creative class** ..... – then Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, proclaiming the importance of the new ObamaCare.

Think of an economy where people could be an artist or a photographer or a writer without worrying about keeping their day job in order to have health insurance ...... What we see is that people are leaving their jobs because they are no longer job-locked. They are following their aspirations ..... writer ..... self employed ...... – House Minority Leader, Nancy Pelosi.

*We live in a country where we should be free agents. People can do what they want.* – Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid.

*Getting rid of Social Security and Medicare would cause more 95-year-olds to work. You wouldn't judge whether Social Security or Medicare are good or bad based on what they do to [the] labor supply* – Jason Furman, Obama's Chairman of the Council of economic Advisors. (Unbelievably embarrassing – SS and Medicare has nothing to do with young, able bodied workers – a real reach!)

There is absolutely no evidence, and every economist will tell you this, that there is any job loss related to the Affordable Care Act. I know that's a popular myth that continues to be repeated but it just is not accurate. – HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius (Really? Every economist?)

*First, this is not about jobs offered by employers. It's about workers – and the choices they make.* –Glenn Kessler, Washington Post's "fact checker." (If you can, with a straight face, deny that this is about harmful

incentives of ObamaCare, I dare say you really don't understand the issue.)



"The Left's Lamest Defense of ObamaCare Yet" – according to Investor's Business Daily, includes:

- ObamaCare will give more of us more time away from work. This is a good thing.
- Will enable more than 2 million workers to escape "job lock."
- *Gives workers more choices, including the option to work less.*
- (Because ObamaCare will make people less willing to work, companies will) have to pay more per hour to get those workers in the door.
- (Will give parents more time to) tuck their children in at night.

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