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TODAY'S "QUICK HIT" EVALUATING OBAMACARE: THEY KEEP MOVING THE GOALPOST!



By Stephen L. Bakke  September 16, 2016

Here's what provoked me:

A big government advocate takes to task those who want to "try again" with healthcare (payment) reform. This seems to never end. Those who adore Obamacare can't conceive of anything that's seriously wrong with it. They just repeat what they've heard. So I'll just respond again and hope to continue to get noticed! By the way, "parroting" isn't a transgression unique to the progressive mindset – sad to say! My friend Stefano has finally taught me that.

Here's my response:

Evaluating Obamacare: They Keep Moving the Goalpost!

J.F. George wrote about Obamacare's failures ("Obamacare craters as Obama leaves" – September 8). F.J. Shue disagreed ("Fixing healthcare for all" – September 14) declaring repeal of Obamacare would leave "15 million" newly insured without coverage.

Let's not waste time arguing about "fixing" ObamaCare vs. "Repeal and Replace" – there's a distinction without a real difference! I'm an enthusiastic proponent of healthcare reform – always have been. I can agree that some objectives of Obamacare are worthy, but projections justifying its implementation were misleading and dishonest. The "goalpost" has now been moved and victory proclaimed. That's intellectually dishonest.

Shue's biggest concerns are that replacing Obamacare would leave 15 million new insureds high and dry, and that costs continue to be too high. Consider that:

- The goalpost for success changed from 40 million down to 15 million with the stroke of Shue's keyboard. That's failure by any measure.
- No insureds would have to be left high and dry. There would be a transition period with appropriate rules.
- Removing the bureaucracy and shifting the payment system to the free market (finally) would improve costs.

If goalposts are moved, we'll never justify needed changes. When we make those changes, we'll finally feel good about what we've accomplished.