

 **TODAY'S "SHORT TOPIC"**
AFFORDABLE CARE ACT:
Is Gruber really just a distraction?



By Stephen L. Bakke  December 16, 2014

Here's what provoked me:

A letter writer tells us that the Jonathan Gruber scandal is just a republican invention to hide the incredible success of ObamaCare – in particular the 8,000,000 more people who are now insured. I've been through this numerous times before, but here I go again!

Here's my response:

Affordable Care Act: Is Gruber really just a distraction.

Tom Obert, on 12-15, tells us that “Gruber is a distraction; you know this, right?” He alleges Gruber is a republican invention to hide the incredible success of ObamaCare, in particular the 8,000,000 more people who are now insured.

Obert should take a time out and look at facts. Regarding the “8,000,000” statistic, please recall the original goal of 30,000,000++ new enrollees. The goalposts have simply been moved and victory declared. And it's predicted that the law will NEVER come close to the goal. CBO predicts that 30,000,000++ will remain uninsured in the long term. Also, unsubsidized per citizen cost, including deductibles, will go UP due to the law; CBO now concludes the national debt will go UP as a result of ObamaCare; and consumer choice is reduced! We're spending TRILLIONS for this abject failure!

I'm one of those who support many goals of the ACA – e.g. guaranteed insurability. But think about it, we had a target of 30,000,000++ for new enrollees, and most of those would be enrolled under Medicaid. If we are truly satisfied with 8,000,000 new enrollees, why did we have to spend those TRILLIONS to get there? Medicaid existed before ObamaCare and those 8,000,000 could have been the focus of an enrollment process for a small fraction of the cost! Other deficiencies of our system could also have been addressed, again for a small fraction of the cost under ObamaCare.



In reality, the screams of success are a distraction from the truth about Gruber, and what has been a dismal failure!