

## TODAY'S "SHORT TOPIC"

# ARE YOU REALLY HAPPY WITH OBAMACARE?



By Stephen L. Bakke  August 13, 2015

### *Here's what provoked me:*

*Once again a major publication issued an editorial raving about the success of Obamacare. And once again I don't think they looked at the issue very closely. If one compares the original goals of the legislation to current and projected costs and results, it's a dismal failure!*

### *Here's my response:*

#### **Are You Really Happy with Obamacare?**

The 8-13 USA TODAY editorial, "Obamacare working despite its naysayers," hails success for the legislation. Apparently, since Obamacare is still operating, that implies success. The editorial correctly points out that more people than before have health coverage, and some who use the exchanges will have inexpensive premiums.

We "naysayers," including the writer of the "opposing view," would say that the legislation has been a dismal failure when compared to original goals. Here are some realities:

- Obamacare was intended to provide insurance for most of the 46 million uninsured, but has added well under 20 million, and that won't increase much more.
- The bulk of new enrollees are in Medicaid.
- Just expanding Medicaid roles could have been accomplished more cheaply by trillions.
- Overall costs were promised to go down, but they've gone up.
- While claiming lower costs, deductibles have gone way up for many.
- While claiming lower costs for some, it's only due to subsidies paid by others.
- For many, networks are limited and providers are reduced.
- Overall, system-wide healthcare costs have accelerated.

Claiming success, having progressed on only a small portion of goals, can only be described as misleading and a distortion.