

HEALTH CARE MYTHS VS. REALITY

MYTH	REALITY
<p>MYTH: Health reform will lead to a government takeover of the system.</p>	<p>REALITY: The bill protects the ability to choose your health insurance.</p> <p>Div A, Title II, Sec 201. The Health Insurance Exchange is set up “in order to facilitate access of individuals and employers, through a transparent process, to a variety of choices of affordable, quality health insurance coverage, including a public health insurance option.</p> <p>Div A, Title I, sec 102. Protecting the choice to keep current coverage. [H.R. 3200]</p> <p>FACTCHECK: Rep. Pence Relies On Misleading Talking Points From Health Insurance Industry-Funded Pollster [MMAN 7/14/09]</p> <p>President Obama: "Nobody is talking about some government takeover of health care. I have been as clear as I can be. These folks need to stop scaring everybody." [WSJ 7/29/09]</p>
<p>MYTH: The bill mandates government funding for abortion.</p>	<p>REALITY: There is no language in the bill requiring funding for abortion.</p> <p>There is no easing of the requirement that prohibits federal funding being used for abortion, and no requirement for insurance plans to cover abortion. [H.R. 3200]</p>
<p>MYTH: The government will ration care.</p>	<p>REALITY: The bill specifically prohibits rationing of health care.</p> <p>Title IV, Subtitle A, Sec 1410 (h). “Nothing in this section shall be construed to permit the Commission or the Center to mandate coverage, reimbursement, or other policies for any public or private payer.” [H.R. 3200]</p> <p>The most common argument for why health reform will ration care focuses on the way in which the Comparative Effectiveness Research (CER) that will be conducted by the Center for Comparative Effectiveness Research could be used by the Centre or the Comparative Effectiveness Research Commission or the Secretary to limit coverage. The Wonk Room writes that “The government isn’t mandating that doctors adopt the results of CER and it is not rationing care. Each patient has his or her unique needs and the ultimate decision for how to proceed should be left to the doctor and the patient. Currently, approximately one-third of all treatments have never been proven to produce better outcomes; CER would provide doctors with unbiased information about the most effective treatments, help doctors and patients make better informed decisions, and improve the quality of care.”</p>
<p>MYTH: The government will make end of life decisions.</p>	<p>REALITY: There is no provision in the bill mandating end of life decisions. Period.</p>

	<p>Medicare will reimburse a doctor's consultation with a patient about 'advance care planning' which can help patients make their own decisions about end-of-life treatments. Such consultations can only be reimbursed in those states which medical directives are legal. [See Div B Title II Sec 1233 in H.R. 3200]</p> <p>"The provision would require Medicare to cover advanced care consultations for the first time, but it does not mandate individuals to take advantage of the benefit, proponents say. The consultations would take place between the patient and a doctor or nurse practitioner, not a government bureaucrat. And there would be no requirement for the individual to sign a directive or living will at the end of the discussion." [Politico, 7/28/09]</p> <p>FACTCHECK: Rep. Foxx Says Health Care Reform Will Cause Seniors To Be "Put To Death By Their Government" [MMAN 7/28/09]</p> <p>FACTCHECK: RNC "Research" Tries To Portray Democrats As Encouraging Euthanasia [MMAN 7/28/09]</p>
<p>MYTH: Illegal immigrants will get health coverage under this bill.</p>	<p>REALITY: The bill prevents the use of federal dollars to give health coverage to illegal immigrants. H.R. 3200</p> <p>Federally funded programs already require proof of citizenship for participation. See Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006 (TRHCA) Section 405(c)(1) [CHS.HHS.gov, accessed 7/30/09]</p> <p>House Bill: "No Federal Payment for Undocumented Aliens." According to America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009, Page 143, Line 3, Section 246: "No Federal Payment for Undocumented Aliens. Nothing in this subtitle shall allow Federal payments for affordability credits on behalf of individuals who are not lawfully present in the United States." [America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009, accessed 7/22/09]</p> <p>FACTCHECK: "Rep. Bachmann Falsely Claims Health Care Bill Will "Cover Illegal Immigrants" [MMAN, 7/28/09]</p>