Health Care Reform I Support

There is no question that our health care system needs reform. Unfortunately, President Obama, Speaker Pelosi, and Harry Reid have had no intention of working with Republicans towards health care reform we all can agree on. However, my

colleagues and I have put forth a proposal that we believe will effectively reform health care for all Americans. The reform measure that I think is best has been introduced by Congressmen Paul Ryan (R-WI) and Devin Nunes (R-CA) called the Patient's Choice Act. It is directionally opposite of the plan proposed by President Obama and his cohorts. Instead of putting government in charge of the system, this plan largely removes the failed portions of government involvement, and puts each individual in charge of their own health care plan and decisions. Here are some bullet points on this plan:

- The plan eliminates the employer deduction for health insurance and the system of direct payment of health costs under Medicare and Medicaid, and replaces them with a $2,300 refundable tax credit per individual which must be used for health care costs. Therefore, everyone, whether they are young, senior citizens, or indigent, will be covered under a private plan of their own choosing. And you no longer have to get the plan from your employer, but will have a number of options to keep the same plan as you move from job to job. Senior plans would be further subsidized by the Medicare system but still allowed to choose their own plan.

- Currently as a Californian, you can only buy a health insurance plan approved by the state of California. Under the Patient's Choice Act, you would be free to pick from any of the over 1,300 medical insurance plans offered around the country. State based insurance exchanges will make sure that you cannot be cancelled for illness, and that pre-existing conditions will not interfere with our choices, in the same way that fire insurance is available to those who live in high fire risk areas today.

- Basically this legislation will allow unlimited contributions to a health savings account so that Americans can save for their own health care costs on a pre-tax basis.
- Litigation costs are a huge driver of medical costs. This bill would replace the court system with state based dispute resolution mechanisms for most claims, thereby saving a great deal of money in the system.
- Creates transparency through a public/private partnership to disclose cost, quality, and outcomes of various plans and providers.
- It also instills accountability into existing federal wellness and prevention programs to encourage more disease prevention activities and thereby lower costs.
- This bill will cost a grand total of $0 and will increase taxes by $0. It is revenue and cost neutral to the current system.

Click Here for the text of the legislation

Below are some of my links regarding health care:

A Right to Health Care? - OCRegister Editorial

From Congressman John Campbell's Laptop to Yours - Monday July 20, 2009

President Obama has Mislead us on Healthcare - The Greeneyeshade Blog

From Congressman John Campbell's Laptop to Yours - Monday July 27, 2009

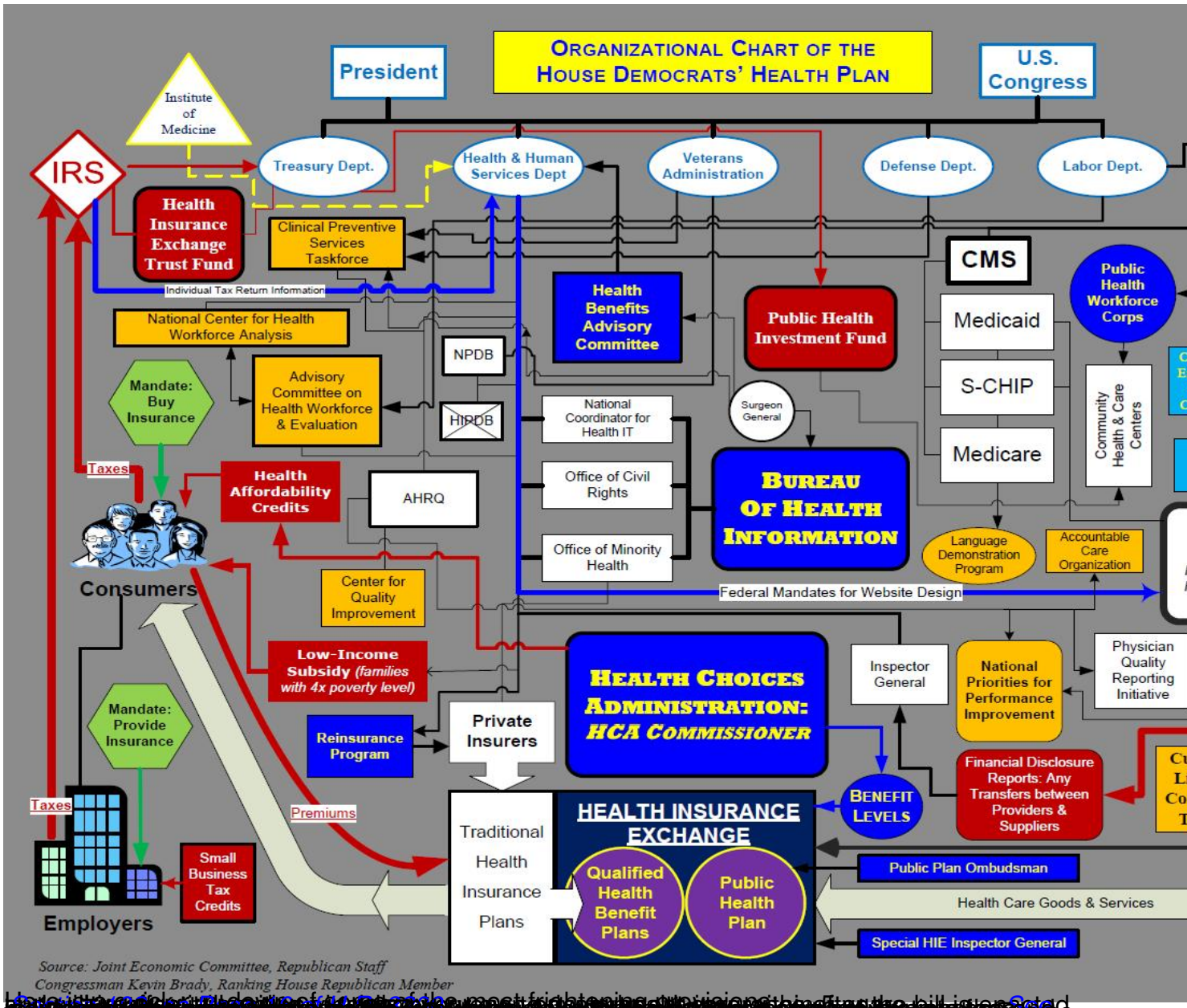
Community Commentary - Health Plan Won't Help Americans - Daily Pilot

Confounding America's Ideals - Washington Times Editorial

President Obama's Socialized Medicine Package

The proposals we have seen from President Obama, Speaker Pelosi, and Harry Reid on healthcare reform represent some of the worst public policy I have seen in my entire public career. Socialized health care that raises taxes, rations care and increases costs isn't what most Americans have in mind. I stand in firm opposition to the current government-run healthcare proposal and will work diligently to ensure that Americans are not saddled with a system that will ultimately reduce the quality of your healthcare, raises taxes, and hamper the relationship between doctors and their patients.

On the whole, we will have government-only medicine with the compassion of the IRS and the efficiency of the DMV. Below I have included a graph which doesn't need any explanation, except for that this socialized health care plan will be a mess.


Organizational Chart of the House Democrats' Health Plan
President
U.S. Congress
Institute of Medicine
IRS
Treasury Dept.
Health & Human Services Dept
Veterans Administration
Defense Dept.
Labor Dept.
Health Insurance Exchange Trust Fund
Clinical Preventive Services Taskforce
Individual Tax Return Information
National Center for Health Workforce Analysis
Health Benefits Advisory Committee
Public Health Investment Fund
CMS
Medicaid
S-CHIP
Medicare
Public Health Workforce Corps
Community Health & Care Centers
Mandate: Buy Insurance
Advisory Committee on Health Workforce & Evaluation
NPDB
HIPDB
National Coordinator for Health IT
Office of Civil Rights
Office of Minority Health
Surgeon General
Bureau Of Health Information
Taxes
Health Affordability Credits
AHRQ
Consumers
Center for Quality Improvement
Language Demonstration Program
Accountable Care Organization
Federal Mandates for Website Design
Low-Income Subsidy (families with 4x poverty level)
Health Choices Administration: HCA Commissioner
Inspector General
National Priorities for Performance Improvement
Physician Quality Reporting Initiative
Mandate: Provide Insurance
Reinsurance Program
Private Insurers
Benefit Levels
Financial Disclosure Reports: Any Transfers between Providers & Suppliers
Taxes
Premiums
Traditional Health Insurance Plans
HEALTH INSURANCE EXCHANGE
Qualified Health Benefit Plans
Public Health Plan
Public Plan Ombudsman
Health Care Goods & Services
Small Business Tax Credits
Employers
Special HIE Inspector General
Source: Joint Economic Committee, Republican Staff
Congressman Kevin Brady, Ranking House Republican Member