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## The CBO's Fuzzy ObamaCare Math

**Of course raising taxes and slashing Medicare will make the deficit look smaller.**

By **BETSY MCCAUGHEY**

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Defenders of ObamaCare have seized upon a Jan. 6 letter from the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) to House Speaker John Boehner alleging that repeal would "increase the deficit." Don't be bamboozled. When big spenders call for "deficit reduction," they mean raising your taxes. That is what ObamaCare does.

The CBO letter says that the health law spends \$780 billion in the next decade and pays for it by raising taxes and fees by \$410 billion, and by reducing future Medicare funding by \$500 billion. The CBO argues that the law raises more money (\$910 billion) than it spends, but that is hardly sufficient reason to keep it, or any law.

Projections from another federal agency—the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)—fill in the grim picture on what ObamaCare will do. The CMS figures, released Sept. 9, show that if you buy your own health plan, you will have to pay more every year than you would have if the law hadn't passed.

Amazingly, only 3% more people will have private health insurance in 2014 than would have it if the law hadn't passed. But a staggering 85.2 million people will be on public insurance—Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program, or S-CHIP. That's 31% of non-elderly Americans. The new health law is pushing the U.S. toward a European-style welfare state, making more people dependent on government, instead of on themselves, and undermining incentives to work. The new law stipulates that Medicaid must provide the same health benefits that employers will have to provide for their workers.

To expand Medicaid, the law eviscerates Medicare. It's like robbing Peter to pay Paul, only it's robbing Grandma and Grandpa. The CMS shows that in 2019 the Obama health law reduces annual Medicare funding so much that it works out to \$1,428 less for each elderly patient that year. Richard Foster, chief actuary for Medicare, has spoken with brave bluntness about the possible impact, warning that some hospitals may stop accepting Medicare. Where will seniors go?

Government projections are notoriously unreliable, but by the CBO's own numbers repeal would reduce government spending, lower taxes, and restore Medicare funding. Most important, repeal would protect your freedom and your medical care. The Obama health law lowers your standard of care, puts government in charge of your care, and shreds your constitutional rights— dangers these government projections do not address.

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