What Have They Done? What Does it Mean for You?

MASA's 2010 Annual Session April 9-10 Huntsville, Alabama

Produced by the Alabama Department of Public Health Video Communications and Distance Learning Division

Faculty

Grace-Marie Turner President, Founder Galen Institute Alexandria, Virginia

Americans Satisfied with Own Care

- 82% Health care is good to excellent
- 45% U.S. has world's best health system
- 51% Major problems, needs major changes
- 18% System in crisis, needs major overhaul

Americans Not Sold on ObamaCare

- 54% want the health overhaul law repealed
- 51% say it will reduce the quality of care
- 57% believe the deficit will increase
- 56% object to cuts to Medicare

Americans Not Sold on ObamaCare

- 21% believe the law will reduce health costs
- Only one-third of Americans supported passage

A Year of Hairpin Turns

- Business and associations lined up because they saw passage as inevitable
- August town hall explosions
- Cornhusker Kickback and LA Purchase
- · "Deem and pass"

A Year of Hairpin Turns

- Meltdown of phone lines and email
- Pelosi and Obama went for "Do or Die"
- Americans are engaged as never before

The Philosophy of Passage and of the Law:

Washington Knows Best

Architecture of the New Law

- Mandate on individuals to buy insurance
- Employer mandate to "Play or Pay"
- Strict federal regulation of health insurance and care delivery
- Major expansion of Medicaid
- Cuts to Medicare and new and higher taxes to finance insurance subsidies and expanded entitlements

The AMA Did Not Serve You Well

- The SCR Medicare payment fix was its key bargaining chip
- The chance for a permanent fix is lost
 - -The President got the AMA endorsement for an empty promise

The AMA Did Not Serve You Well

 Pay-Go rules in the Congress mean short-term fixes are the best you can hope for

Other Danger Points Ahead

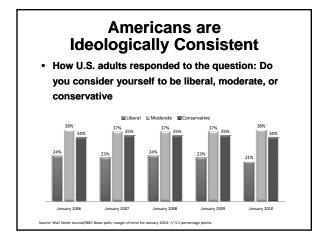
- Government demands for use of EMR
- Comparative effectiveness "guidelines"
- Payment policies that penalize those with the top 10% of charges
- Legislation says states are liable for paying and assuring Medicaid recipients get "the care and services" to which they are entitled

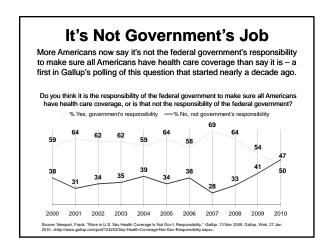
Push-back Coming From...

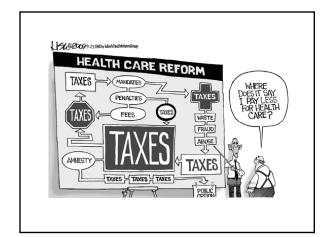
- Doctors and patients
 - Losing control over medical decisions
- Small businesses and big employers
 - New taxes, penalties, and mandates
- States
 - -Higher costs for Medicaid

Push-back Coming From...

- Consumers
 - Higher costs for insurance and fewer choices
- Seniors
 - -Cuts to Medicare
- Constitutionality of the individual mandate







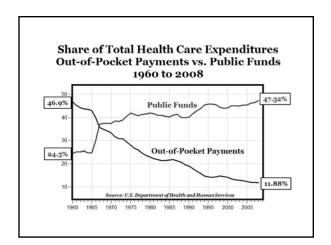
Some Realities

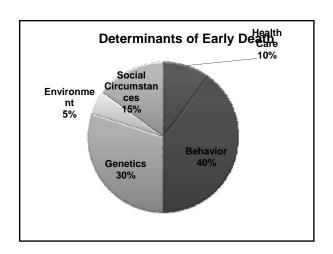
What We Know For Sure

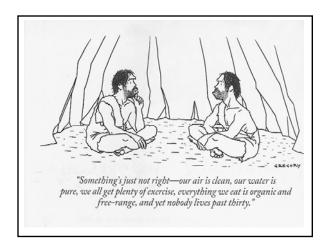
- SCOPE
 - Americans are frightened about sweeping changes in any 2,700page law – whether offered by Democrats or Republicans
- TRANSPARENCY
 - They want to be engaged and consulted in an open debate

What We Know For Sure

- COMPLEXITY and COST
 - -This is a huge, far-reaching law that was poorly-drafted and that most Americans don't believe we can afford







Starting A Fresh Conversation

- Engaging patients as partners in managing health costs and getting the best value for health care dollars
- Where was the AMA?

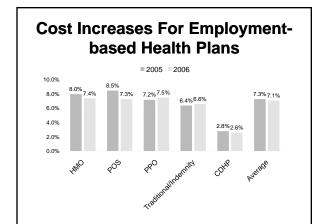
Putting Patients First

- Three key principles for true health reform
 - Subsidies for health insurance should be fair and equitable and should allow health insurance to be portable from job to job

Putting Patients First

- 2. New incentives for more functional, diverse and affordable health insurance markets should be created
- 3. Access to health insurance should be guaranteed, especially for those with pre-existing conditions or high health risks

www.DoNoHarmPetition.org

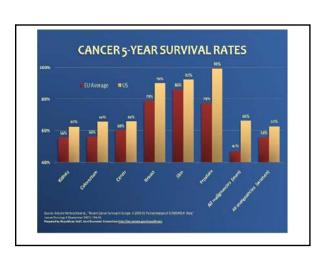


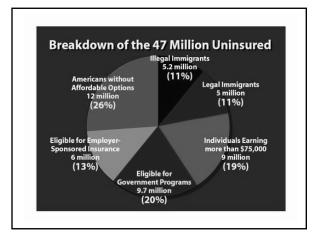
New Incentives

- McKinsey & Co. says CDHC plans increase consumer awareness of cost and value
- Consumers are
 - -20% more likely to comply with treatments for chronic conditions
 - -25% more likely to engage in healthy behaviors

New Incentives

- -30% more likely to get annual physicals
- -50% more likely to seek less expensive care
- "If I catch an issue early, I'll save money in the long run."





Three Key Actions for Reform

- Money for the uninsured
 - Expand access to health insurance through fairness in tax subsidies, starting with the uninsured
- More options for coverage
 - Allow opportunities to buy affordable, portable insurance, including from other states

Three Key Actions for Reform

- Help for those with pre-existing conditions
 - Funding for guaranteed access to help those with higher health risks purchase and maintain insurance coverage

The Future?

- Health reform is law and would fundamentally change the relationship between government and citizens
 - -But it is not settled policy

The Future?

- There is a global move toward consumerism, driven by greater patient demand for information and more control over decisions
 - Democracy and innovation must prevail

Contact

Grace-Marie Turner
Galen Institute
www.galen.org
(703) 299-8900
gracemarie@galen.org