



Monday, March 12, 2012

RSC Update: How to Make Medicaid Better, More Accountable & More Affordable

From the Chairman

Every state runs its own Medicaid program, but the federal government provides more than half the money and a one-size-fits-all set of rules. It can take months or years for states to get approval for their own changes and reforms. Costs rising at warp speed put enormous strain on state and federal budgets, and countless fraudulent claims are paid out every year. Those who truly need help often struggle to find a doctor and get inadequate care.

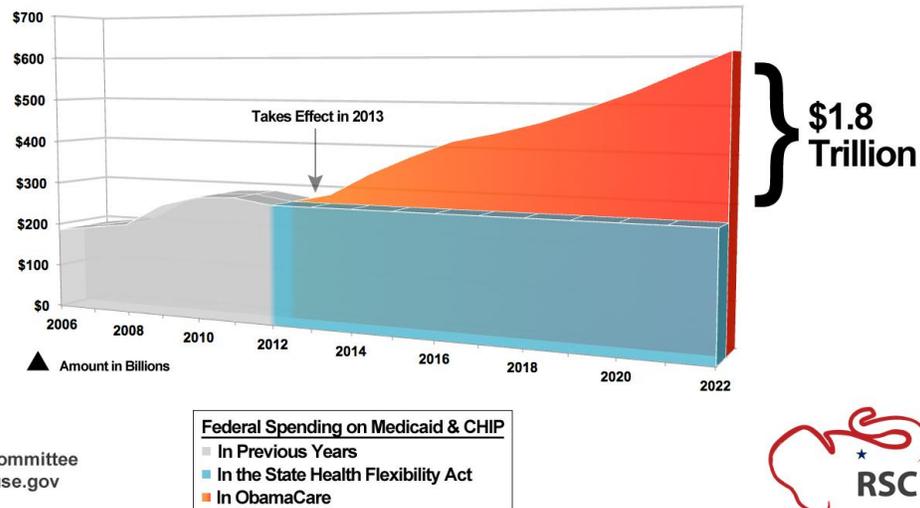
President Obama talks a lot about fairness these days. Well, is it fair to the poor when Medicaid promises care but doesn't deliver? Is it fair to our children to borrow and spend trillions on a program rife with fraud and failure? ObamaCare will make all of these problems even worse, which is yet one more reason to repeal it.

Conservatives introduced the [State Health Flexibility Act](#) last week because Medicaid should work better. State officials are more accountable to their citizens and understand their needs and priorities better than federal bureaucrats at the Department of Health and Human Services. Giving states maximum flexibility to innovate and improve their programs will lead to better care for their most vulnerable citizens. In exchange, the bottomless pit of federal taxpayer money would become a predictable and more affordable funding stream. As the chart below illustrates, we can save \$1.8 trillion without even cutting a penny from current federal spending.

The State Health Flexibility Act

More Accountable, More Affordable, Better Care

- Doesn't cut a penny from current Medicaid & CHIP spending.
- Doesn't spend \$1.8 Trillion we don't have on programs that don't work like they should.



Governors like Rick Perry, Bob McDonnell, Nikki Haley, Rick Scott, and Chris Christie have all called for an end to Washington's one-size-fits-all control over Medicaid. The [State Health Flexibility Act](#) shows how to do it.

God Bless,

Congressman Jim Jordan
 Chairman, Republican Study Committee

RSC Media Activity – RSC members work hard to ensure that the conservative viewpoint is well-represented in all corners of the media. Visit our [Media Center](#) for more.

- Rep. Sam Graves (MO-06): [Stop Gas Prices from Fueling Trouble](#); Politico, March 5.
- Rep. Darrell Issa (CA-49): [Distorting the Debate of Religious Freedom](#); Roll Call, March 5.
- The Oversight and Government Reform Committee [released a video](#) highlighting the large amounts of food stamp fraud, March 7.
- Rep. Marlin Stutzman (IN-03) with Rep. Kevin McCarthy (CA-22): [GOP Plan Sets Path to Energy Sufficiency](#); The Journal Gazette, March 8.
- Rep. Bill Posey (FL-15) with Sen. Rubio (R-FL): [A Destructive IRS Mandate](#); The Miami Herald, March 8.

- Rep. Bill Huizenga (MI-02) appeared on [MSNBC](#) to talk about the latest employment report and the JOBS Act, March 9.
- Rep. Marsha Blackburn (TN-07): [ObamaCare's Illegal Fee on Faith](#); The Washington Examiner, March 9.

RSC Member Activity – RSC members make it a priority to introduce productive, conservative solutions for America’s future.

- Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (WA-05) [sent a letter](#) to Sec. of the Treasury Geithner warning him that the Administration cannot bypass Congress to increase IMF funding.
- Rep. Cory Gardner (CO-04) introduced [H.R. 4136](#), legislation which triggers the Secretaries of Energy, Agriculture, and the Interior to develop a plan to increase the percentage of federal lands leased for oil and gas production by what is being depleted from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.
- Rep. Kevin Brady (TX-08) introduced [H.R. 4180](#), the *Sound Dollar Act*, legislation which transforms the mission and operations of the Federal Reserve to lay the foundation for strong economic growth for America in the future.
- Rep. Paul Broun, M.D. (GA-10) introduced [H.R. 4171](#), the *Freedom from Over-Criminalization and Unjust Seizures Act (FOCUS) Act of 2012*. The legislation prevents the federal government from applying foreign law to American citizens and businesses.
- Rep. Trent Franks (AZ-02) [sent a letter](#) to President Obama requesting that his Administration express support for Israel during this time of great uncertainty from the growing threat Iran’s nuclear advances pose.

House Floor Activity – The following key legislation came through the House of Representatives recently.

- On March 6, the House passed [H.R. 4105](#), which would allow the Commerce Department to continue imposing anti-subsidy duties on nonmarket economies.
- On March 7, the House approved [H.R. 2842](#), the *Bureau of Reclamation Small Conduit Hydropower Development and Rural Jobs Act*. The legislation jumpstarts hydropower development on Bureau of Reclamation canals and pipelines by reducing unnecessary and duplicative administrative and regulatory costs.
- On March 8, the House approved [H.R. 3606](#), the *Jumpstart Our Business Startups (JOBS) Act*. This legislation is a compilation of bipartisan House bills that will provide real solutions to encourage job growth by removing some regulations impeding small businesses and startups.

Outlook – A quick look at what’s on the horizon.

- This week, the House is not in session as Members head back home for a Constituent Work Week.
- This Friday is James Madison’s birthday. He was the 4th President of the United States.
- This Saturday is St. Patrick’s Day.

RSC Reports

- RSC Staff recently compiled a Policy Brief detailing the [President's FY 2013 Budget](#).
- Stay up to date on budget and spending news with [reports](#) from the RSC Budget and Spending Task Force.
- Check out the [RSC Sunset Caucus'](#) work to shrink the size of government and the [Repeal Task Force's](#) work to eliminate bad laws and regulations.
- House rules now require sponsors of legislation to provide a Constitutional Authority Statement that explains how Congress has the constitutionally-derived authority to enact their proposals. Click here to see liberals' [highly questionable attempts](#).
- Read the [RSC Money Monitor](#) to track how bills passed by the House affect budget authorizations, mandatory spending, and federal government revenue.

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House Republican Study Committee

Rep. Jim Jordan, Chairman

Paul Teller, Executive Director

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Joe Murray, Professional Policy Staff

Curtis Rhyne, Professional Policy Staff

Ja'Ron Smith, Professional Policy Staff

Derek Khanna, Professional Policy Staff

Brian Straessle, Communications Director

Michael Tate, Deputy Communications Director

Wesley Goodman, Director of Conservative Coalitions and State Outreach

Yong Choe, Director of Business Outreach and Member Services

Rick Eberstadt, Research Assistant

1524 Longworth House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

(202) 226-9717

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