

Economic Analysis

Published by Applied | Economic | Strategies, LLC

December 9, 2009

Economic Analysis No. 2009-9

Ten Million Workers Will Lose Their Employer Provided Coverage Under The Senate Health Care Reform Bill

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According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), under the Senate health care reform bill, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, 10 million employees will lose their employer-provided health insurance.¹ Although most of these workers would have to pickup insurance through the exchanges, some of whom would not be eligible for a subsidy, a number of employees who lose their health insurance will be forced into Medicaid, a government run program.² Moreover, those workers who are likely to gain employer-provided coverage will not be the same workers who gain coverage.

The CBO estimates the 10 million employees would tend to be in smaller employers with predominantly lower-wage workers.³ CBO has also previously noted that part-time employees are likely to lose coverage too.⁴

The CBO estimate is consistent with the analyses of other reform bills:

- A Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Actuary report that found about 12 million employees would lose their employer-provided health insurance under the House passed reform bill, including part-time workers, employees in smaller companies that decide to terminate their existing coverage, and employees in firms with low average salaries.⁵
- A Lewin Group report on the Senate Finance Committee reform bill found 19.1 million employees would lose their employer-provided health insurance under that bill while another 11.8 million workers will gain coverage for a *net* loss of 7.3 million.⁶

There are those who will argue that millions more employees will lose their coverage if health care reform is not enacted. But this is a false choice. Certainly, health insurance reform can be crafted so that very few, if any, workers lose their employer-provided coverage.

¹ Senator Mike Enzi, *Budget Office: Reid Bill Would Force 10 Million Americans To Lose Employer-Based Health Coverage*, December 9, 2009, available at: http://help.senate.gov/Min_press/2009_12_08.pdf. Also see: Congressional Budget Office, Letter to Senator Harry Reid, November 18, 2009, available at: http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/107xx/doc10731/Reid_letter_11_18_09.pdf.

² Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Office of the Actuary, *Estimated Financial Effects of the "America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009" (H.R. 3962), as Passed by the House on November 7, 2009*, November 13, 2009, available at: http://republicans.waysandmeans.house.gov/UploadedFiles/OACT_Memorandum_on_Financial_Impact_of_H_R_3962_11-13-09_.pdf.

³ Senator Mike Enzi, *Budget Office: Reid Bill Would Force 10 Million Americans To Lose Employer-Based Health Coverage*, December 9, 2009.

⁴ Congressional Budget Office, Letter to Representative Charles B. Rangel, July 14, 2009, available at: http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/104xx/doc10430/House_Tri-Committee-Rangel.pdf.

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ John Sheils and Randy Haught, The Lewin Group, *Long-Term Cost of America's Healthy Future Act of 2009; As Passed by the Senate Finance Committee*, October 30, 2009, available at: http://www.lewin.com/content/publications/Peterson_Finance_Report.pdf.