



NATIONAL CENTER FOR
POLICY ANALYSIS
MEDIA ALERT

For Immediate Release

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Robert Wood Johnson Study Ignores Capitol Hill
NCPA's Goodman Says Legislation Would Make the Problem Worse

DALLAS, TX (Sept. 30, 2009) – A new [study](#) by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation projecting rapidly rising health costs ignores the very real possibility that current health care reform proposals before Congress could actually make things worse, according to National Center for Policy Analysis President John C. Goodman.

According to the study, health care costs could increase by more than 35-percent in every state by 2019 without health reform. However, Goodman says, “Every independent analysis, including those by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), has concluded that health care spending will increase by about \$100 billion per year under the proposals before Congress. And once the reform is fully phased in, spending will go up by nearly \$200 billion a year.”

Goodman notes that the burden on the average American family will be higher if any of five Congressional bills is passed. “The combination of premiums plus out-of-pocket costs plus taxes will be larger than if we did nothing,” he said. “So perhaps we should follow the doctor's admonition, “first, do no harm.”

During the Presidential election campaign, Barack Obama promised savings large enough to finance half the cost of reform from measures such as preventative medicine, electronic medical records, coordinated care, integrated care, etc. But as the campaign was underway the CBO, then under the leadership of Peter Orszag, concluded that these measures do not significantly reduce health care costs (CBO reports [here](#) and [here](#)). Orszag currently is currently director of the Office of Management and Budget and is the president's point man on health care reform.

“The administration has not offered a single serious proposal to reduce costs, other than reducing benefits for seniors,” says Goodman. “Not only will currently proposed legislation make health care costs higher than they would otherwise have been, it will also probably lower the quality of care and may even make care less accessible than it is today.”

As a part of a better solution to health reform, the NCPA has produced a [five point reform plan](http://www.ncpa.org/pdfs/Five_Steps_to_a_Better_Health_Care_System_Web.pdf): http://www.ncpa.org/pdfs/Five_Steps_to_a_Better_Health_Care_System_Web.pdf
The NCPA is also taking an active role in supporting a petition drive opposing nationalizing health care. The petition, at <http://freeourhealthcarenow.com/>, has already been signed by nearly 1.4 million people.

Editor’s note: *Dr. Goodman can discuss his view of the study results and the health reform debate. He is also speaking Sept. 30 on health reform on the **Consumer Health Care Congress** opening keynote panel in Alexandria, VA. The panel is scheduled 12:45-2:15p.m.*

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation study: http://www.ncpa.org/pdfs/09292009_rwjohnson.pdf
(Embargoed until 12:01a.m. Sept. 30)

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The [National Center for Policy Analysis \(NCPA\)](http://www.ncpa.org) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan public policy research organization established to develop alternatives to government regulation by relying on the private sector. Topics include health care, taxes, Social Security, welfare and environmental regulation.