



Obamacare: worshipping sex?

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The conservative movement is in crisis. Modern conservatism was born in 1955 with the founding of *National Review*. Its editor, William F. Buckley Jr., said the publication's mission was to "stand athwart history, yelling stop!" But history has kept rolling along, smashing every traditional institution in its path. Family, faith, capitalism, our constitutional republic—they have all been shattered by modern liberalism. In the face of this ideological juggernaut, conservatives have offered sporadic and weak resistance. Their ideas have become stale. Too many prefer power to principles. The movement has become corrupt, lazy and ineffective. Having come to Washington to confront the political rot and moral decay, conservatives have become part of the establishment. In other words, they have become part of the problem.



The mission of *Reflections Magazine* is to launch a conservative moral and intellectual revival. We will bring together the finest minds and writers to defend the eternal principles of God, country and family. We seek to forge a reinvigorated conservative movement for the 21st century—one that champions a new nationalism, rooted in a culture of life, small government, a restoration of federalism and victory over Islamist terrorism. Capitol BuildingThe time has come for a one-nation conservatism that reaches out to minorities and women, the unborn and the poor, workers and students. The movement must go beyond its traditional base or else suffer a slow, agonizing death. Our goal is unabashedly counter-revolutionary: to roll back the forces of progressivism. Since the 1960s, a destructive liberal revolution has swept across our land. Characterized by radical secular humanism, sexual permissiveness and milk-toast socialism, it is transforming America into something our Founding Fathers would not only find unrecognizable but repugnant. We stand for the real America, the historic America, the eternal America—an America based on moral traditionalism, an America of limited government, self-reliance and entrepreneurship, an America that won its independence from imperial British rule, triumphed over Nazi Germany and Communist Russia, and has shed precious blood and treasure to liberate hundreds of millions of people around the world, and an America that champions human rights and freedom, in which every individual—regardless of race, color, gender or religion—possesses innate dignity and equal value in the eyes of our creator. We ask like-minded Americans to join us in this struggle for the heart and soul of America.

Edmund Burke, the great philosopher and godfather of Western conservatism, once said: "All that's necessary for the forces of evil to win in the world is for enough good men to do nothing." We refuse to do nothing. We will fight for what is right, true and good. This is the rock upon which we take our stand.

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Mission:

The Edmund Burke Institute for American Renewal was founded in June, 2005 in the nation's capital, Washington, D.C. We are a non-partisan, non-profit, education and outreach organization which aspires to engage and mobilize the millions of African Americans, Hispanics, women and other minorities in this country who share conservative values. We will inform conservative leaders about the needs and aspirations of minorities in order to make the latter feel welcome amongst us. Also, we want minorities to appreciate fully how conservatism is congruent with their values and goals. In short, we will build a steadfast alliance between conservative leaders and minority groups. We hope to preserve all those elements in the American republic that render us a strong and vibrant nation. Simultaneously, we are open to new ideas that will allow more citizens to enjoy the blessings of freedom, prosperity and moral renewal.



How We Differ From Other Conservative Organizations:

1. We seek to update conservative thought. We want to find original ideas on how to bolster timeless principles.
2. We are attentive to the needs of women and minorities. These are not peripheral but are a primary focus of our institute. We want the conservative movement to make adjustments in order to accommodate the unique aspirations of previously marginalized groups. We also want minorities to learn how the conservative movement can benefit them.
3. We are devoted to cultural issues, not just politics. The main battle of our time is to seize the initiative in the cultural arena.
4. We hope to foster a broad alliance with those who adhere to traditional moral principles. We seek to build bridges with individuals of all faiths in order to combat assaults on human dignity.
5. We write policy initiatives, opinion articles and monographs as well as organize symposiums and conferences that appeal to our audience. Hence we do not just think and write: we take action!
6. We do not focus exclusively on one group or on one issue. There are excellent minority conservative organizations across the United States that are currently working in isolation from one another. Instead, we bring these groups together on a variety of issues in order to find common ground and, thus, to be effective in achieving political and cultural change.

Obamacare: worshipping sex?

By Michelle Laque Johnson

Did you know that Alfred Kinsey, the infamous “sex expert,” was, by training, a zoologist? Did you know that his so-called “research” included sex experiments with infants (you read that right) and prison inmates and that his results were manipulated to make Americans think they were not normal if they weren’t having lots and lots of sex?

Americans, particularly the young, have been sold a bill of goods when it comes to sex and we, as a country, are now facing the disastrous consequences.

President Barack Obama and those he has hand-selected to oversee key health care and legal positions in our government are fanatical supporters of contraception, abortion and euthanasia, which are all consequences of this enormous disregard for the value of human life.

This is why so many Americans are frightened at the prospect of a panel of government functionaries deciding the kind of care they will receive under the Obama administration’s so-called “healthcare” plan. They fear they may be considered expendable like the millions of babies being aborted. They fear they may be euthanized—which is not what we call it—but it is what actually happens to many elderly and disabled people in this country when they have their feeding



tubes involuntarily disconnected by “caring” people who feel their lives have no value.

In addition to the gargantuan price tag and corresponding tax hike on the middle class that Obamacare would entail, these concerns over life are at the center of the battle that is raging on Capitol Hill. It’s the same pro-life/pro-death battle that was being waged during the election. The forces of death won that battle. Will they

win the war?

Here in the United States, it all started with seemingly small things. We were told everyone was having sex all the time, so we thought we needed to do the same. What fun. We were told that our young people were going to have sex no matter what adults did so the responsible thing to do was to give them “protection.” That’s when we started handing out condoms and, when that inevitably failed, we began promoting abortion.

This is clearly Mr. Obama’s agenda. During the presidential campaign, Obama answered a question about abortion this way: “Look, I’ve got two daughters – 9 years old and 6 years old. I am going to teach them first about values and morals, but **if they make a mistake, I don’t want them punished with a baby.**”

Of all the “values and morals” Obama plans to teach his daughters, facing up to the consequences of one’s actions is clearly not one of them.

Apparently, it’s not a lesson in Planned Parenthood’s moral textbook either—one of his favorite groups. As we all know, statutory rape is a crime in all 50 states. Films by UCLA Student Lila Rose show this courageous young filmmaker in Planned Parenthood clinics across the country posing as a 14-year-old who’s afraid to tell her parents she’s pregnant with her 30-something boyfriend’s child. In too many cases, clinic workers help the young woman cover up her mistake. (See for yourself at <http://liveaction.org>).

Because those in many “power” positions right now are those who have made sex their god, we are now facing disastrous consequences: a public plan with all sorts of dubious provisions that no one wants—not even the government bureaucrats who are crafting it.

We can take back our country, but only if the Silent Majority wakes up and returns to the values on which this country was founded—Judeo-Christian values which are based not on the enjoyment of unlimited sex, but on the Ten Commandments given to us by the one, true God.

It’s not too late. Only a year or two ago, I witnessed maybe 50 high school juniors from across the Philadelphia area, who came to a church-sponsored all-day seminar on sex and love; undoubtedly they came because they wanted to get a sanctioned day off from school. Most arrived at the venue with a very large chip on their too-cool shoulders.

But something happened after the teens viewed two movie clips. One clip, which every teen in the room had all seen, featured a frat house party with lots of drunken and lewd behavior.

The next clip was from “A Walk to Remember,” with teen idol Mandy Moore playing a preacher’s daughter and Shane West playing a popular but rebellious young boy who’s unexpectedly fallen in love with this uncool girl.

In this clip, Shane is coming on to Mandy and she asks him if he’s trying to seduce her. He says, “Would it work?” She gives

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him “the look.” Instead of saying, “If you really loved me, you’d have sex with me,” he then pulls out a piece of paper and eagerly shows this girl for whom he has changed for the better that he’s had a star named for her. She says, “I love you” and they kiss.

At that moment, every girl in the room wanted to be Mandy Moore. For the first time, these teens finally got the difference between love and sex.

At the end of the day, the teens filed out and, one by one, they thanked the sponsors. The girls especially said things like, “Thank you for showing me how to act.”

Too many adults no longer know how to act. They support a right to choose even though they “wouldn’t have an abortion themselves.” They don’t want to be uncool with their kids so they look the other way when they go to parties they shouldn’t go to and have sex they’re not ready to handle. They don’t want to judge, and so they say nothing when someone they know is thinking of having an abortion, or when they see a television show or movie that gives the wrong message to an impressionable teen.

Unless and until we take back our

country from those who worship at the altar of unlimited sex for everyone, with anyone, at any age, we will continue to see skyrocketing rates of sexually transmitted diseases, rampant abortion and euthanasia, an increasing acceptance of suicide and, yes, a healthcare plan that denies anything but palliative care to those U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg recently called “undesirables.”

Once, on a hill named Calvary, we murdered the real God. Since then we have trampled on his commandments in sanctioning widespread contraception, abortion and euthanasia.

Today, in homes, schools and town halls across the nation, we need to re-assert our values. We need to make it clear to our elected officials that we want to stop killing our children, the elderly and the disabled and instead kill this so-called health care bill and the god it rode in on.

-Michelle Laque Johnson is director of communications for EWTN, the largest religious media network in the world. The views expressed are solely her own and do not necessarily reflect those of EWTN.

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Obama: a weak commander-in-chief

By Steve Malzberg



It has been quite a few weeks for President Barack Obama. He was labeled a racist by talk show host Glenn Beck, and Bill Kristol of the *Weekly Standard* called Mr. Obama an “arrogant man” on the Fox News Channel. The president has also seen his poll numbers tank. His approval rating now sits right near the 50% mark, and his negatives top his positives when it comes to his handling of health care and the economy

He really stepped in it when he attacked the actions of the Cambridge, MA police, saying they “acted stupidly” when they arrested his buddy, Harvard professor Henry Lewis Gates. Only some 30% of American’s believed that his remarks were appropriate. And then came the “beer summit” with Mr. Gates and Cambridge police Sgt. James Crowley, hosted by Mr. Obama and Vice President Joe Biden at the White House. Yes, the president sat there looking very unpresidential, while more than 100,000 of our brave men and women are still risking their lives in Iraq. And as Obama sipped his brew, our soldiers in Afghanistan were being killed in record numbers. Forty-three American military personnel were killed in the month of July—the highest monthly total since we entered Afghanistan in 2001.

Yet, on his handling of foreign policy, Mr. Obama continues to receive high polling numbers. How can this be?

As I write this, we have lost five more U.S. troops in Afghanistan in the past 24 hours. That brings the August total to 11 in just the first 6 days of the month. But I am very sorry to say that this is not the worst of the news regarding our mission in Afghanistan. The worst news is that we have a commander-in-chief who says that victory is not necessarily the goal there. What?

It’s true. The president of the United States told ABC News on July 23rd that, “I’m always worried about using the word ‘victory’ because you know it invokes this notion of Emperor Hirohito coming down and signing a surrender to MacArthur.”

First of all, shouldn’t that be a wonderful notion for the president to conjure up? Shouldn’t it make him swell with pride? Wouldn’t the commander-in-chief marvel at such a sight? Not this one. Secondly, for the record, the Japanese Emperor never signed anything, so the whole scene only exists in Mr. Obama’s nightmare.

Just think about the statement, though. It is stunning and frightening at the same time. A president who just sent 21,000 additional troops to Afghanistan and is poised to send more, doesn’t like to use

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the “V” word. After all, we don’t want to offend the Taliban or their terrorist friends by implying that by seeking victory, they would suffer defeat. After all, aren’t most of them Muslims?

As if to prove that he meant what he said, Mr. Obama’s incoming advisor to the top U.S. general in Afghanistan is a chip off the old Barack. David Kilcullen, who will be senior advisor to General Stanley McChrystal, has said that we will be in for two more tough years over there. And then making Mr. Obama proud, he added, “We’ll fight for two years and then a successful transition (to Afghan troops) or we’ll fight for two years and we’ll lose.”

Do you want more? Can you take it? Mr. Obama’s number one homeland security and counterterrorism official has said that the war on terror is over. John Brennan told a Washington think tank, “The President does not describe this as a war on terrorism.” Nor is this a “global war,” and we are not fighting “jihadists,”

according to Brennan.

The war on terrorism is over? We will lose? I don’t like the word victory? How is this possible? It’s happening because Barack Obama is being Barack Obama. It’s who he is. Why, after all, should America win? We are no better than anyone else. We aren’t special, in fact, we are just one of the community of nations. Why should we have when others have not? Why should we be a superpower when some nations don’t want us to be? Why should we acknowledge that we are fighting a global war against jihadists when some Muslims may take offense?

Folks, there is nothing less than the future and the very survival of our nation at stake. Let’s all wake up.

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Liberal pacifism's lie

By Mike Fowler

Edmund Burke said, "All that is necessary for evil to prevail is for good men to do nothing." Whereas pacifism—as promoted by Leo Tolstoy, the moral hero of the left—demands that good men do nothing even in the face of genocide.

Liberal pacifism is subversive theology designed to disarm Christians from ethics. It is rhetoric expounded to Christians not to fight against evil by people who reject Christianity, rather than a moral code. Christians can and must fight when fighting is more ethical than not fighting. It was ethical to fight the Nazi's to free the world from Hitler's jack-booted brutality; it was ethical to fight the North Vietnamese Army to prevent the killing and enslavement of millions of Vietnamese.

When the history of the Liberal pacifists is examined all that is seen is blood. Anti-war activists successfully protested and forced the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Vietnam that resulted in the killing of 1.4 million Vietnamese by Ho Chi Min's forces. Vietnamese "boat people" were dying in the Pacific, while President Jimmy Carter did nothing. As Serbians attempted to fight off the Islamic Crusade, the left made up false reports of genocide, needlessly destroyed bridges, hospitals, and defended the bombing on Easter. When American Forces freed Kuwait from Saddam, the pacifists cried



foul. Iraqis were freed from Saddam's genocide of over 400,000 and leftists wanted the United States to pull out and leave them to the wolves as President Barack Obama's administration is doing as we speak. Yes, they are pacifists, with other people's blood.

Fr. Stanley S. Harakas, dean emeritus of Holy Cross School of Theology in Boston stated, "The just war theory holds that war is an evil, and seeks to make it less so." This was Patrick Henry's appeal in his *Give me Liberty or Give me Death* speech, "Gentlemen may cry, Peace, Peace-- but there is no peace. The war is actually begun! ...Our brethren are already in the

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field! Why stand we here idle?" When war exists, fighting it or standing in ethical opposition to it is to reduce its effects. To prove this, I need only submit millions of Russian Orthodox corpses killed by those who earlier extorted Tolstoy's pacifism. Moral authority cannot be claimed when standing aside in permissiveness to allow murder.

Liberal pacifism is the soothing lie of communists who know that so long as people still believe in God and ethics, communism cannot win. They have learned that killing millions will not effectively change culture. They now believe that the best way to change culture is to corrupt its theology rather than eliminate it outright, because man is a "religious animal."

Pacifism cannot be justified from Christian ethics, so they corrupt them. Pacifists will point to the Old Testament teaching of "Thou shall not kill." Yet, they show themselves hypocrites when three pages later the explanation of the law is, "Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death." (Exodus 21:17), a law they will reject. Thus, "Thou shall not kill" refers to murder and manslaughter.

Pacifists proclaim, "Turn the other cheek" as Christ taught. Christ also approved of the Law of Moses, and when Roman soldiers confronted him and asked the open question, "What about us?" He did not tell them to lay down their weapons of war and killing, rather "your pay is enough," do not use extortion.

(Luke 3:14) When Christ says turn the other cheek, this is not permission to allow others to murder, rape and pillage, nor is it the end of civil authority.

Liberal pacifism is not the pacifism of Quakers who refuse to be involved and separate from society. Quakers believe in the totality of scripture. Whereas Liberals only use "thou shall not kill" as the one law they wish to use to fetter all that resist them. Meaning "thou shall not kill *me*."

The faith of a Liberal pacifist is one who has abandoned all of God's tenets and adopted the law of witchcraft, "harm none, and do what thou will." They erroneously assert themselves as the highest moral authority and above Christianity because "small-minded Christians still believe in killing. Therefore we, the pacifists, are superior in our morals;" morals that only extend as far as their own noses.

Pacifism of liberals is merely a weapon to disarm their opponents in order to take control of the levers of power. They are not truly interested in morals but in the acquisition of power over the people. How else can their actions be justified? Thinking that liberals believe in pacifism is as foolish as Neville Chamberlain's belief in Adolf Hitler's peace treaty. Pacifism as preached by liberals is only a seduction to allow the promulgation of evil, whereas love as preached by Christians is to destroy evil.

-Michael Fowler is an instructor of Christian apologetics, author and talk-radio host.

Conservatives must go on the offensive

By Kerry W. McCarthy and Peggy McCarthy

Progressives seek to undermine self-reliance and the traditional family—the very cultural underpinnings of American individualism. Don't take our word for it. According to author Clarence B. Carson in "The World in the Grip of an Idea," the liberal plan for the world is "to achieve human felicity [happiness, good fortune] by concerting all efforts toward its realization, to root out and destroy the cultural supports to individualism and the pursuit of self-interest." This is because for the Left the pursuit of rational self-interest is detrimental to concerted action.

Progressives are frequently on the offensive. Their reaction to Sarah Palin is a case in point. It illustrates the Left's ability to negatively define that which they feel they need to destroy. In particular, liberals have succeeded in portraying conservatives as champions of the status quo. Hence, conservatives are always on the defensive. Some say conservatism works every time it's tried, but Republicans need to rally people rather than simply trust the public to see that conservative ideas are valid.

Liberals' efforts to "achieve human felicity on earth through concerted action," demand the growth of government. Democrats and liberals have a political advantage in attempting to sway public opinion: it's easy to criticize whatever they target. Conservatives advocate



evolutionary reform built on existing political and cultural foundations. They oppose drastic change that expands government. However, this has given liberals a major political advantage: They constantly define attempts to preserve received culture and the traditional understanding of the Constitution as promoting the "failed policies of the past." The result is that conservatives are often forced to play defense.

The public, however, is becoming aware that the media propagandizes in favor of radical change. Ironically, liberals feel confident to translate public skepticism and resistance as evidence of an unenlightened public. This explains why unpopular legislation can be passed by the "informed elite" despite opposition from the electorate.

Americans don't want to believe that

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any group, especially one that claims to be “for the little guy” is out to “destroy the cultural supports to individualism and the pursuit of self interest”—supports that include traditional family values and a belief in American exceptionalism.

Liberal leaders interpreted the last election as a mandate to institute European-style socialism in the U.S.—especially, government control of our medical system. But Democrats made a rare mistake by not passing health care reform first. They were confident the stimulus package would boost the economy and increase chances for a successful take over of health care. But having already spent nearly a trillion dollars on a stimulus package that doesn't seem to be working, the public is reluctant to spend nearly twice as much on a government-run health plan.

If health care reform had passed first and failed to improve the economy, then that disappointment would have delivered a less direct blow to public confidence in the government's ability to assess our needs. The failure of the stimulus package puts the whole recovery-through-massive-government-spending thesis at risk. This may save Americans from sliding more quickly toward dependence on government.

Republicans must not rely on Democrats' mistakes and the continuance of a bad economy to mobilize disenfranchised voters. Rather, they need to forge a coalition of moderate, independent, and re-energized conservative voters by exhorting people to have the courage to abandon Big Government “solutions.” To

remedy voter cynicism and apathy, the GOP must resist the media's dismissal of proposed free market solutions, and find ways to bring them to public attention.

Sarah Palin could well be the leader to do this, which is why the media is intent on her destruction. Hopefully, the old saying applies here: “that which does not kill me only makes me stronger.” The mother of a soldier, Ms. Palin connects with military families. The choice she made for her Down Syndrome child presents a heroically quiet example of pro-life values. Even her teenaged daughter's pregnancy made her more appealing—this is a nuclear family facing the same challenges many average Americans face. In addition to her obvious personal strengths, Ms. Palin's strong speaking style and excellent convention and stump speeches electrify crowds.

It's been said that conservatism can triumph only after progressivism collapses. There is no triumph in the continuance of the same old cycle. Conservatives take over after liberals have been voted out, but they find that conservative ideas are more difficult to implement after the country has been moved to the Left by failed liberal “reforms.” Then conservatives receive blame for reinstating the “failed policies of the past.” By taking positive action, Republicans may be able to alter the leftward trajectory of American politics.

- Kerry W. McCarthy and Peggy McCarthy are writers living in Indiana.

Healthcare deception

By Joseph Beaudoin

President Barack Obama's healthcare rhetoric is uncomfortably reminiscent of his stimulus plan rhetoric. First, scare people, then spend their money with nothing to show for it except more deficits. "If we do not control health care cost, we won't be able to control the deficit," he recently said. That is an incredible statement from the president who gave us the largest deficit in human history.

It looks like Mr. Obama is attempting to fix what is not broken. A recent poll by Opinion Dynamics—confirmed by a Rasmussen poll—provides evidence that the Obama administration is pushing a healthcare reform few Americans want. The poll revealed that 83% of Americans rate the quality of their health care as good or excellent and 84% of those who have health insurance rate it as excellent or good. Most troubling for the administration and Congress, only 19% of Americans want a government-run health care system; 64% prefer a private system.

Fully aware of the unpopularity of its healthcare plan but determined to push government-run medicine anyway, the Obama administration intentionally misleads Americans with repeated claims that 46 million Americans are the uninsured victims of a heartless privately-run health care system.



In June, the White House released a report, *The Economic Case for Health Care Reform*, which was prepared by the president's Council of Economic Advisers (CEA). This report stated ad nauseam that there are 46 million uninsured Americans. The CEA is chaired by economist Christina Romer,

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creator of the imaginary 3.5 million jobs the Obama stimulus has not created. After misinforming Americans on the stimulus plan, Ms. Romer is now busy misinforming Americans on health care.

Indeed, everyone, including those who oppose Obamacare, believes there are 46 million victimized uninsured Americans. This is simply not true. But in order to have an intelligent debate on healthcare, Congress must first acknowledge that the allegation of 46 million uninsured victims is bogus; that it is a White House fabrication.

The Census Bureau did report that there are 46 million uninsured people in America, but 10 million of them are not Americans and 17 million of those who are American have enough income to buy health insurance but choose not to. That is called exercising one's free will.

Simple arithmetic shows that there are only 19 million uninsured Americans and those uninsured have access to Medicaid and other such programs. Consequently, stating that there are 46 million uninsured victims constitutes a deception.

Mr. Obama is also deceiving Americans when he assures them that he does not want to eliminate the current system; that he simply wants to provide a government option. Mr. Obama has a profound dislike and distrust of free markets and of capitalism. His words are clear, "What we're trying to make sure of is that there is an option out there for people... where the free market fails... And we've got to admit that the free market has not worked perfectly when it comes to health

care, because you've got a lot of people who are really getting hurt: 46 million uninsured."

As we have explained above, the 46 million victims Mr. Obama talks about do not exist. And if 83% of Americans are pleased with the quality of their health care, it is ludicrous to state, as Mr. Obama does, that "the free market fails." An 83% success rate in something as subjective as medical care constitutes statistical perfection.

This debate is not about access to health insurance or cost. Indeed, the administration dismissed Congressional Budget Office reports that showed Obamacare will cost more than the current system and will still leave millions uninsured. This is about introducing a government option the sole purpose of which is to crowd out private insurers over time in order to create a single-payer system.

Private companies deliver better quality and more cost-effective performance than governments. Fundamentally, that is why we won the Cold War. But governments can kill competition because they have unlimited access to tax-based financing. Governments can also undercut private companies because they do not have to be profitable and they do not pay taxes. The net result of the government option will be a government-run healthcare system within a decade.

Then real healthcare problems will begin for all Americans, not just the 19 million currently uninsured. The same government pricing that will have driven

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private insurers out of business will prove unsustainable in the long run. Economic realities will force rationing in order to cut costs. Eventually, medical coverage for certain conditions and procedures will be cancelled and fees will become commonplace. Finally, waiting lists for treatments will become so long as to make treatments nearly unavailable. That is what happened in Canada following an exodus of Canadian doctors to the United States.

Waiting time is such an acute problem in Canada that its Supreme Court struck down a ban on private health insurance because such ban “impinges on the right to life, liberty and security of the person in

an arbitrary fashion that fails to conform to the principles of fundamental justice.” Private medicine is slowly making a comeback in Canada.

The government option President Obama wants will make sure all Americans have access to equally mediocre medical care. Then, only the very rich will be able to go to Mexico for top-notch treatment delivered by American doctors forced out of their country by the government option Mr. Obama wants.

-Joseph Beaudoin holds degrees in economics and finance, and has worked in the banking and investment industries for 20 years. He is a regular contributor to Reflections.

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