



SINGLE-MINDED FOR SINGLE-PAYER

Sen. Clinton And Barack Obama Continue To Support Single-Payer, Washington-Run Health Care System

Yesterday, *The Boston Globe* Reported That Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-NY) Said She Would Support A Single-Payer Health Care System:

When Asked By A Yale Medical Student If She Would Support Single-Payer Health Care System, Sen. Clinton Said “Yes.” Yale Medical Student: “Would you sign [a single-payer healthcare program] if it came across your desk?’ ... She said yes, and shook my hand.” (Marcella Bombardieri, “Would Clinton Sign A Single-Payer Bill?” *The Boston Globe*’s “Political Intelligence” Blog, www.boston.com, 2/6/08)

“[Sen. Clinton] Said A Single-Payer ‘Medicare For All’ Program ‘Would Be Something To Be Considered’ -- If Democrats Win Enough Seats In Congress.” (Editorial, “Hillary Care, Part II: Choices Now, But Not Later,” *The [Manchester] Union Leader*, 9/19/07)

- **In An Unpublicized Talk In April Of 2007, Sen. Clinton Voiced Support For “Medicare For All” If Democrats Win 55 Senate Seats.** “Clinton was asked directly about the relative modesty of her approach in a revealing, unpublicized New York talk in April, in which a board member of the Community Service Society of New York, Jonathan Greenberg, asked her why she ‘continue[s] to see the solution’ as private insurance, rather than a single-payer national system. ‘Well, I didn’t say that,’ Clinton responded, to the audience’s apparent surprise. ... A far broader program known as ‘Medicare for All,’ she said, ‘would be something to be considered’ if Democrats can win at least 55 seats in the Senate.” (Ben Smith, “Clinton Set To Unveil Health Care Plan,” *The Politico*, 9/17/07)

Sen. Barack Obama (D-IL) Was A “Proponent” Of Single-Payer Health Care; He Now Says He Would Only Support It If “Starting From Scratch”:

In 2003, Obama Was A “Proponent Of A Single-Payer Health Care Program.” Obama: “I happen to be a proponent of a single-payer health care program. ... A single-payer health care plan, a universal health care plan. And that’s what I’d like to see.” (Laura Meckler, “Let’s Go To The Video,” *The Wall Street Journal*’s “Washington Wire” Blog, www.blogs.wsj.com, 1/22/08)

Now, Obama Says He Would Only Support A Single-Payer System If “Starting From Scratch.” Obama: “[I] never said that we should try to go ahead and get single payer. What I said was that if I were starting from scratch, if we didn’t have a system in which employers had typically provided health care, I would probably go with a single-payer system.” (Sen. Barack Obama, CNN’s Democrat Presidential Debate, Myrtle Beach, SC, 1/21/08)

Obama Has “Issues With Telling The Truth” About His Stance On Single-Payer Health Care. “Obama...has had issues with telling the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. On health care, during Monday night’s debate-turned-slugfest, in a verbal scuffle with former North Carolina Sen. John Edwards, Obama said, ‘I never said that we should try to go ahead and get single-payer.’ But he did. Maybe not Monday night. But back in June 2003 in a speech to the AFL-CIO when he was campaigning for the Senate. Said Obama, ‘I happen to be a proponent of a single-payer health-care program.’” (Jake Tapper and Mike Callahan, “Truth Takes Hard Knocks At Dem Debate,” www.abcnews.go.com, 1/23/08)

- **FactCheck.Org Said Obama “Sounds To Us Like Someone Who’s Pretty Gung-Ho For A Single-Payer Plan.”** “[O]bama’s denial doesn’t hold up. ... That sounds to us like someone who’s pretty gung-ho for a single-payer plan.” (Fact-Check.Org Website, www.factcheck.org, Accessed 1/23/08)

What Does Single-Payer Health Care Mean For You?

Single-Payer Health Care Would “Use Taxes To Provide Health Insurance” And Allow Government To “Own Hospitals And Employ Doctors.” “Under a single-payer system, the federal government would use taxes to provide health insurance for all Americans, much as it does for senior citizens in Medicare. There are variations; a more extreme version would have the government own hospitals and employ doctors, like it does through the Veterans Administration.” (Laura Meckler, “Tempering Health-Care Goals,” *The Wall Street Journal*, 1/25/08)

“[A] Single-Payer System, Where ... The Government Would Be The Sole Payer Of All Medical Bills, Eliminating The Role Of Private Insurance Companies.” (Laura Meckler, “Let’s Go to the Video,” *The Wall Street Journal’s* “Washington Wire” Blog, www.blogs.wsj.com, 1/22/08)

Los Angeles Times’ Ron Brownstein: “[T]he idea of the federal government completely replacing the private health insurance industry is so far outside the American experience that even the vast majority of health reform advocates consider it politically dead on arrival for the foreseeable future.” (Ronald Brownstein, Op-Ed, “The Plague Or The Cure?” *Los Angeles Times*, 7/1/07)