

EXPANDING COVERAGE: SEN. JOHN MCCAIN (R-ARIZ.)

Presidential Candidate Forum: John McCain
October 31, 2007

"I don't think that there should be a mandate for every American to have health insurance. I think that one of our goals should be that every American own their own home. But I'm not going to mandate that every American own their own home. I think that every American should have the available and affordable college education. But I'm not going to mandate that every American go to college. I feel the same way about healthcare. If it's affordable and available then it seems to be that it's a matter of choice amongst Americans."

Presidential Candidate Forum: John McCain
October 31, 2007

SUSAN DENTZER: What's your estimate of the number of low income uninsured people who would actually be able to be covered with these tax credits?

SEN. JOHN MCCAIN (R-ARIZ.): I don't know the answer to that, Susan, because it really depends on how well we're able to reign the costs. If the only available health plan for someone is \$10, \$12, \$15,000 as it is today, as you mentioned, then I think there are going to be less people that choose it. I think that if we can put a reign on the healthcare costs through a variety of the provisions that I just mentioned then I think more and more people will take part in it. But again I want to emphasize to you the majority of Americans that have no health insurance today are healthy young Americans that choose not to. And the other, of course, is the preexisting condition and the chronic illness where it's simply not available. And being the cost-cutter that I am and all that the fact is that we're going to have a Medicaid fund that will provide those people sufficient funds to get health insurance.