

HEALTH CARE COSTS: SEN. BARACK OBAMA (D-ILL.)

Yahoo! News, Slate and Huffington Post Democratic Candidate Mashup

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"So, critical examples would be putting more money into prevention so that we have people getting regular checkups as opposed to going to the emergency room for treatable illnesses like asthma. Using health IT, information technologies, not just for billing but for maintaining medical records, for communicating between doctors and nurses and pharmacists. To reduce errors and reduce bureaucracy. Managing the chronically ill. About 20 percent of the patients in our health-care system account for 80 percent of the costs. And if we manage them better with teams, then collectively all these savings we expect to be able to obtain, maybe \$100 to \$150 billion worth of savings each and every year. And we can use that money not only to provide health insurance for those who don't have it, but also to provide some relief on rising premiums for people who already have health insurance. We think that with a catastrophic insurance component we can provide a \$2,500 reduction in premiums for the average family every year."