

THE GOVERNMENT'S ROLE IN HEALTH CARE: SEN. BARACK OBAMA (D-ILL.)

Yahoo! News, Slate and Huffington Post Democratic Candidate Mashup
September 13, 2007

"My proposal says is we will set up a government program similar to the one that I utilize as a member of Congress, that anybody who wants to can buy into, that we will subsidize those who can't afford it. People who are currently uninsured who don't get health insurance from their job, who aren't covered by Medicaid or their children are not covered by the children's health insurance program. That we will pay for those subsidies by imposing a set of cost-saving measures that will actually improve quality at the same time that they lower costs."

Obama Discusses Health Care Reform Plan
May 29, 2007

"First, we will reduce costs for businesses and the workers by picking up the tab for some of the most expensive illnesses and conditions. Right now, two out of every 10 patients account for more than 80-percent of all health care costs. These are patients with serious illnesses like cancer or heart disease who require the most expensive surgeries and treatments. Insurance companies end up spending a lion's share of their expenses on these patients and they, not surprisingly, pass those expenses onto the rest of us in the form of higher premiums. Under my proposal, the federal government will pay for part of these catastrophic cases, which means that your premiums will go down."