



HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATES in Medicine, P.C.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

HCA on President Obama's AMA Speech

As one of the top health care providers for residents in Staten Island and Brooklyn, we at Healthcare Associates in Medicine, P.C. have closely monitored the ongoing attempts to reform national health care. After carefully watching President Obama's speech to the American Medical Association (AMA) last week, our concerns regarding the direction of health care have specified. A major component of the plan is to implement a federal health insurance program that should theoretically compete with private insurers.

Once again, President Obama spoke of his support for this method. We are cautious of permitting the government additional interference, especially in health care. Our government has already runs Medicare and Medicaid, albeit inadequately and unsuccessfully. Why would we then trust them to run another system? This proposal is cleverly disguised to hide what it really is – a single or public payer system of health care.

"I'll be honest," said President Obama, "there are countries where a single-payer system works pretty well." Reports, however, show that only five percent of Americans wait more than four months for surgery, compared with 23 percent of Australians, 26 percent of New Zealanders, 27 percent of Canadians and 36 percent of Britons. The latter countries all have similar systems of care that President Obama has proposed. Is this really what Americans want? We believe that costs need to be controlled. But to what extent? The single payer system in the U.K. features the lowest usage of cancer drugs among the top 5 European economies and thus lower cancer survival rates. So, if the costs drop with the quality of care, hasn't the care just been rationed?

This is just one element of the president's proposal that requires further scrutiny and critique. All elements of the plan, however, require analysis and debate and the president, to his credit, has welcomed the discussion. Only by fully dissecting these proposals can we begin a proper dialogue on the road to real and worthwhile reform.

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