
KEY POINTS ON HEALTH CARE RATIONING



On March 23, 2010 President Obama signed into law an anti-life, unpopular healthcare restructuring plan, passed by the slimmest of margins. If the Obama Health Care Rationing Law is not repealed by 2013 before its most dangerous provisions come into effect, the result will be the rationing denial of lifesaving medical treatment, and consequent premature and involuntary death, of an unknown but immense number of Americans. The pro-life movement must devote itself over the upcoming critical years to ensuring that the American people are given the facts needed to counter the misinformation.

HOW WASHINGTON BUREAUCRATS WILL LIMIT YOUR DOCTORS' ABILITY TO SAVE YOUR LIFE

Under the Obama Health Care Law, doctors and hospitals will no longer be free to determine, in consultation with the patient, what treatment and diagnostic tests are best suited to the patient's condition. Instead, as a condition of being allowed to contract with qualified health insurance plans, doctors will have to comply with quality measures imposed by Washington with the objective of forcing *private* health care spending below the rate of medical inflation.

Here's how it will work. A powerful "Independent Payment Advisory Board" is charged with the duty of bringing *private* health care spending **below the rate of medical inflation**. It is directed to make recommendations to achieve this on January 15, 2015 and every two years thereafter. Based on these recommendations, the federal Department of Health and Human Services is empowered to impose "quality and efficiency" measures on hospitals, requiring them to report on their compliance with them. Doctors will have to comply with such quality measures in order to be able to contract with any qualified health insurance plan.

In effect, there will be one uniform national standard of care, established by Washington bureaucrats and set with a view to limiting what private citizens are allowed to spend on saving their own lives. As the standard of medical care is strangled more and more year after year, involuntary denial of lifesaving treatment will become commonplace.

LIMITING SENIOR CITIZENS' RIGHT TO USE THEIR OWN MONEY TO SAVE THEIR OWN LIVES

The multi-billion dollar cuts in Medicare to finance the new law have been well-publicized. Less well known is that the law actually empowers Washington bureaucrats to keep senior citizens from using their own money to try to offset these cuts.

Under the law previously in effect – as a result of 2003 Medicare amendments championed by National Right to Life – older Americans who chose to do so were permitted to add their own money on top of the government's Medicare contribution in order to purchase private insurance (known as Medicare Advantage private-fee-for-service plans) less likely to deny treatment. However, the new law empowers bureaucrats in the Department of Health and Human Services to refuse to permit such plans to be offered – preventing senior citizens from seeking to escape rationing by making up the shortfall with their own hard-earned and carefully saved funds.

For full details and documentation, along with the various other rationing concerns in the new law, please visit www.nrlc.org/HealthCareRationing