

AMERICAN ACTION FORUM

Health Care Reform and the Numbers

In the midst of the rhetoric about pricing by the insurance companies and the supposed government takeover of health care it is useful to step back and examine the cold hard math of the impact of these bills.

Here are some surprising facts about the Senate-passed health care bill that is currently sitting on the Speaker's desk on the House side, awaiting its passage. The computations are based on data provided by the Joint Committee on Taxation:

- Only about 7 percent of taxpayers would actually receive the government subsidy for health insurance under the Senate-passed health care reform bill.
- Accordingly 93 percent of Americans would not be eligible for a tax benefit under the bill.
- In contrast to the 7 percent of taxpayers – all of whom would make under \$200,000 – that would actually receive the subsidy, 25 percent of filers under \$200,000 would see their taxes rise under the Senate bill. Moreover, 52 percent of all taxpayers will see their taxes rise. Thus, the impact of the health care reform bill extends to those small business owners who file as pass-thru entities at when the unemployment rate is close to double digits.

So what does this all mean? Simply put under this bill for every 1 middle-class family that would receive the government subsidy, 3 middle-class families would pay higher taxes under the Senate bill.