

Health care plan doesn't require proof of citizenship

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Body

USA TODAY's editorial "Misinformation, mayhem mar debate on health care" cannot cover up for the fact that illegal immigrants would benefit from the House Democrats' health care bill (Aug. 10).

According to the Congressional Budget Office, within 10 years, the non-Medicare population of the U.S. will include 14.1 million illegal immigrants. CBO projects that up to 8.5 million of those 14.1 million will not have health insurance, meaning the Democrats' bill could benefit as many as 5.6 million illegal immigrants.

This is the result of Democrats blocking Republican efforts to require proof of citizenship. Democrats are on record voting to defeat amendments that would preserve the proof of citizenship standard.

FactCheck.org and liberal blogs have criticized this conclusion by pointing to language in the bill stating that illegal immigrants cannot receive health benefits. That language is purely a red herring -- technically accurate but functionally meaningless except as a diversion.

No Democratic bill contains verification mechanisms, such as proof of citizenship requirements, to ensure that illegal immigrants would not receive benefits. Democrats in two congressional committees defeated Republican amendments introduced to close this loophole.

Their bill also suggests that if one member of a household were eligible for benefits (for example, a U.S.-born child of an illegal immigrant), then everyone in that household would be considered eligible. The Pew Hispanic Center estimated that there are almost 2 million families in the USA with illegal immigrant parents and U.S.-born children.

With these significant loopholes -- no verification and family eligibility -- illegal immigrants would benefit if liberals passed their bill that would lead to a government takeover of our health care system. Next time, perhaps FactCheck.org and those who print its opinions will check with the author of the facts before they go to print. My number is 5.6 million; what's yours?

Rep. Steve King, R-Iowa

Kiron, Iowa

Fight misinformation

Thank you for your excellent editorial "Misinformation, mayhem mar debate on health care."

It is time sane people who have Christian values stood up to the corporate shills and other crazies who are turning the noble art of political discourse into a terrorist operation, to "break" a Democratic president who is working so hard to improve this country and the plight of the uninsured who are in such need. We must use strong rhetoric and denounce what is going on and stand up for the truth if we care.

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This country could be entering a phase of anarchy because of well-funded, misguided, shortsighted interests. We can't let that happen.

Camilla Gorham

Ann Arbor, Mich.

Graphic

PHOTO, B/W, Elise Amendola, AP

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