
KEY POINTS ON HEALTH CARE RATIONING

NATIONAL RIGHT TO LIFE COMMITTEE

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 If the Obama Health Care Rationing Law is not repealed by 2013 before its most dangerous provisions come into effect, the result will be the rationing denial of lifesaving medical treatment, and consequent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, all doctors and other health care providers will have to comply with "quality and efficiency" standards 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 authorized to impose "quality and efficiency" standards on all health care providers.

In practice, this means ever-increasing limits on the treatments and tests American health care providers will be allowed to give their patients. 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

