



5/4/2009

Congressman Dave Obey
2314 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Obey,

Enclosed contents of the recent “Independent Reviewer” a periodic dissertation covering Health Reform published by the “Coalition for a Health Secure America”.

The 4th Independent Reviewer just published in last days is already finding the insurance promised us in the last presidential campaign under fire by no less than a Democrat. We find Senator Schumer’s comments offensive and undercutting what the administration has in mind and what the entire country needs. I have his comments* below that you might judge taken from the web. Please do what you can do to stop this special interest influence.

Sincerely,

Fred Bannister, M.D.
Director
The Coalition for a Health Secure America

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¶The public plan must be self-sustaining. It should pay claims with money raised from premiums and co-payments. It should not receive tax revenue or appropriations from the government. **No problem with this.**

¶The public plan should pay doctors and hospitals more than what Medicare pays. Medicare rates, set by law and regulation, are often lower than what private insurers pay. **Medicare set fees are very appropriate and adequate (please refer to the clinic section dealing with this in my book listed in the Independent Reviewer)**

¶¶The government should not compel doctors and hospitals to participate in a public plan just because they participate in Medicare. ***This nullifies any help a government plan might offer and alluded to in the last presidential campaign. Medicare for All is just what Sen. Baucus was encouraging last fall.***

¶¶To prevent the government from serving as both "player and umpire," the officials who manage a public plan should be different from those who regulate the insurance market. ***If the plan being offered is Medicare that is exactly what should be offered not some do nothing effort that leaves us worse off than before.***