

Exhibit 17

While we are at it, we might as well get the next chart.

There are some who are saying this legislation will result in increased taxes for higher income people; that is, people whose income is, say, around \$200,000. There is something to that argument, but that is not the whole story. Let's look at the whole story.

This legislation as portrayed by this chart shows:

High-cost insurance excise tax leads to increased wages.

Why increased wages? Because the Congressional Budget Office or maybe it is the Joint Committee on Taxation—the Joint Committee on Taxation concludes that because of that provision of the bill; that is, the excise tax on companies that provide more expensive policies, in effect those policies will be modified or changed, and in effect the premiums for those policies, the so-called Cadillac plans, will actually go down, according to the Congressional Budget Office, between 7 and 12 percent. But that is premiums. The discussion right now is on taxes. Those folks will be paying a little more taxes. That is true under this legislation. But, again, what is the whole story? Why are they going to be paying more taxes? They are going to be paying more taxes because they will get more income. Their wages and salaries will increase tremendously.

Look at the bar on the left. In the year 2013, the percent of the total tax revenue due to increased wages will be about 90 percent, but that person will also pay a 10-percent increase in taxes. The wage increase, salary increase is far greater than the tax increase. That is true for every year—2013, 2014, 2015, all the way up to 2019. It is proportionately basically the same—roughly around an 80-percent increase in wages and roughly maybe about less than a 20-percent increase in taxes. So on a net basis, those persons are going to be doing pretty well.

Consider the example of Joe who works for ACME Company. He is married and has two children. Together, he and his spouse earn \$100,000 a year in taxable wages.

In 2012, ACME Company provides family health coverage to Joe at a cost of \$25,000. Because of the high cost insurance excise tax, ACME Company finds different coverage that costs only \$21,000 in 2013. Thus, ACME Company can afford to pay Joe an extra \$4,000 each year.

Now, even though Joe has to pay income and payroll taxes, he will still have an extra \$2,076 in his pocket. That is \$4,000 – \$1,000 in Federal tax – \$612 FICA tax – \$312 in State tax.

I don't believe Joe would refuse a pay increase just because he has to pay taxes on that raise.

Or consider Sally, a single mother of two working for XYZ Company. She makes \$50,000 in 2013 and receives family health insurance coverage costing \$27,000.

When XYZ Company restructures their plan to \$22,000 as a result of the

high-cost insurance tax, Sally will get an extra \$5,000 in wages. That is \$3,095 in take-home pay after taxes. That is \$5,000 – \$750 in Federal income tax – \$765 FICA tax – \$390 State tax.

I have no doubt that Sally will be able to put that extra money to good use.

Also, I would like to remind everyone about this legislation on premiums. Earlier, I discussed what the Congressional Budget Office said about premiums under our bill. Let me repeat, this is what the Congressional Budget Office says: In summary, the Congressional Budget Office concludes that 93 percent of Americans receive decreases in premiums. About 93 percent of Americans net will see a decrease in premiums.

That is not from these charts; that is from the CBO letter. Of that 93 percent, 10 percent will see decreases of 56 percent to 59 percent because of new tax credits. We are talking about on the individual market. About 60 percent of those who are getting insurance in the individual market on the exchange will get tax credits which will result in roughly a 60-percent reduction in premiums. It is between 56 and 59, which is pretty close to 60 percent. The remaining 7 percent will pay slightly higher—100 less 93. Seven percent will pay slightly higher, but they also get much better insurance for that same dollar. When you have a choice between buying a used car or a new car, you probably expect to pay a little bit more when you buy the new car. Hopefully, it is a little better, higher quality, drives faster, safer, all those things. You expect to pay a little more for a new car, but you get more. The same thing here. You are going to pay a little more. But only 7 percent will see their premiums go up according to the CBO. Those 7 percent are people who do not get tax credits because their incomes are a little higher, but they will get much better insurance, higher quality insurance. CBO says that, much higher quality insurance.

So, in effect, they will probably get at least the same, maybe no increase at all, maybe a reduction in premium, if we calculate in the higher quality insurance they will have.

In addition to CBO, MIT's Jon Gruber has also done a study on premiums. And what does he conclude? He concludes, using Congressional Budget Office data, the Senate bill could mean people purchasing individual insurance would save every year \$200 for single coverage and \$500 for family coverage in 2009 dollars. Most people think he is one of the best outside experts. He has big computer models. He takes the CBO data and, in some respects, he has helped CBO by giving some information to CBO that it otherwise does not have.

Mr. Gruber also points out that people with low incomes would receive premium tax credits that will reduce the price they pay for health insurance by as much as \$2,500 to \$7,500.

We have also seen several studies funded by the insurance industry. I don't want to be disparaging but to some degree you have to consider the source. I have been citing CBO. I think most people think they are a highly professional outfit, no axe to grind. Sometimes they upset those against health insurance reform. Sometimes they upset those for health insurance reform. They are a very professional group of people. But I have also seen studies paid for by the private sector, by the insurance industry. Those studies find that premiums will increase under the bill before us for all Americans. These studies are flawed and, frankly, some of them, the authors of these studies admitted they are flawed. They were just looking at selective parts of the legislation, not all parts, and they were pushed by the industry to issue a report quickly. They have admitted that. Each of them failed to take into account all aspects of the proposal. They selectively chose the provisions that will increase premiums, and they ignored those provisions that will lower premiums.

Why do they do that? Basically, the insurance industry wants to kill this bill. I can understand it. If I were the insurance industry, I wouldn't want my apple cart upset either. They do just fine under the status quo, thank you very much. They don't want to see any changes. Some insurance companies want to continue their current practices of denying coverage if you have a preexisting condition. That is how they made their money in the past. They made most of their money by denying coverage, by underwriting insurance rather than making money on conventional insurance. Anyway these companies want to continue their current practice of denying you coverage if you have a preexisting condition. Some want to continue charging unaffordable premiums if you have been sick in the past, and some want to be able to rescind your coverage once you get sick. That is their MO, and they have done pretty well under the status quo.

The Congressional Budget Office and Professor Gruber are both credible and unbiased sources that are not bought and sold by the insurance industry. The Congressional Budget Office and MIT's Gruber have confirmed what many of us have known: that the bill before us will lower premiums and provide a great many options for more comprehensive coverage. That is very important. With the exchange set up and with other provisions that will be in this bill, there are many more options for individuals to buy insurance with. It creates a lot of competition. With health insurance market reform, insurance companies will be competing more on price than they are on quality of coverage.

This legislation provides much needed assistance as well to lower middle-income Americans struggling to pay their health insurance premiums.

The Senator from Nevada, Mr. EN-SIGN, a few moments ago said people