

# ***PERSONALLY SPEAKING***

***Special Issue***

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**WILL A SPOONFUL OF OBAMACARE SUGAR MAKE  
THE MEDICINE GO DOWN?**

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***Permission to quote is granted when the source is acknowledged***

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**Remember Julie Andrews as the quintessential English nanny Mary Poppins whose remedy for a child's minor aches and pains was rendered so cheerfully in "A Spoonful of Sugar Makes the Medicine Go Down"? As nanny-in-chief of the New American Welfare State, President Obama has prescribed the same remedy for all 301 million of his American children which he promises will relieve all their aches and pains. First, and leaving aside the backroom deals, the sugar of OBAMACARE. Then the medicine.**

***The Sugar.***

**Expand eligibility for Medicaid coverage.**

**Cover dependent children on their parents' health insurance plan until age 27.**

**Deny no one coverage for a pre-existing condition and drop coverage on no one with insurance when they get sick.**

**Eliminate lifetime limits on insurance benefits.**

**Subsidize families with incomes up to 400 percent of poverty to purchase insurance through a health insurance exchange.**

**Give tax credits to small businesses that offer insurance coverage to their employees.**

**Impose no patient fees, not even nominal ones, for Medicaid services.**

**Close the donut hole in Medicare prescription drug coverage.**

**Make preventive health care available through insurance.**

***The Medicine.***

**Impose a new 3.8 percent tax on the rich.**

**Levy a 2.9 percent tax on medical device (no such tax on pharmaceutical companies).**

**Require everyone to have health insurance coverage subject to an IRS-imposed penalty for not being covered.**

**Tax employer-provided “Cadillac” insurance plans (for a family plan, an annual premium greater than \$27,500).**

**Force employers with 50 or more employees to offer insurance or face penalties.**

**Reduce subsidies to private health insurance companies offering Medicare Advantage health plans.**

**Cut Medicare spending by \$500 billion.**

*The Side Effects.*

**More stress on state budgets from increased enrollment in Medicaid, forcing state legislators to make tough decisions about financial support for higher education.**

**Additional borrowing by the federal government to cover added health care expenditures due to expanded Medicaid and Medicare coverage, growing the public debt even bigger.**

**Further cramming down Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement for physicians and hospitals to cope with mounting federal budget deficits.**

**Reimbursement cramdown forces physicians and hospitals to continue to shift unreimbursed costs to other patients, driving up private health insurance premiums.**

**Quality of care compromised as hospitals refer patients in need of primary care from the emergency room to the hospital’s own outpatient clinic staffed by nurse practitioners.**

**With more persons covered by insurance, more eligible for free health care, and health care considered a right to which all Americans are entitled, there will be more opportunities for attorneys to file malpractice suits.**

**Notwithstanding Obama’s promise to sign an executive order banning the use of federal funds for abortion, the over-the-counter morning-after pill already is available without charge when prescribed by a Medicaid physician or at a reduced price if a private physician prescribes it for a woman covered by a federally subsidized private health insurance plan.**

**No incentive for patients to limit their demand for care because they are entitled to that care through free government insurance or subsidized private insurance.**

**No improvement in efficiency or reduction in the cost of the resources used to produce health care services because OBAMACARE addresses the demand for health care services but not the supply.**

**Mary Poppins is a sweet fictional character loved by everyone. Except for the nanny connection, Obama is no Mary Poppins. He is a real, strong-willed person who was handpicked and groomed by the Chicago Democratic machine, is convinced that he knows what is right, and uses the power of the presidency to impose his will on everyone.**

**Will the sugar of OBAMACARE be sufficient to make the medicine go down? The answer may come with the mid-term Congressional elections in November.**

**Or it may come from the judicial system if a constitutional challenge is raised against OBAMACARE, and if as Chicago newspaperman Finley Peter Dunne's fictional Irishman Mr. Dooley who held forth in a pub on the South Side of Chicago asserted years ago "... th' supreme court follows th' iliction returns."**

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