

Pros and Cons from Whetstone Staff Writers

Get the Facts

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When Obama talks about his health care plan, everything sounds perfect, but what are the costs of the Affordable Health Care for America Act? First of all, America's national debt stands around twelve trillion dollars, while the current administration's spending has been out the roof. The current American economy, which has hit a 10% unemployment rate, simply cannot support the financial burden of this bill. "Isn't helping the poor important," many ask? Yes, it is, but this bill is estimated to leave thirteen million people uninsured and the hundreds of free clinics in cities around America will suffer as their private do-

nors are charged with additional surtax thanks to the new bill. Then consider the fact that nearly every time the government becomes involved in the private sector, activities become extremely inefficient because of the complex bureaucracy that entangles all government services. The government is not a competitive organization, meaning that they don't care if you use their services or not. Those Americans who are dependent on government care and services can become trapped and have nowhere else to go. If the health care plan passes and you become dependent on the government for paper work before you can receive life im-

proving treatment, the government has absolutely no incentive for processing that paper work quickly. It might sound ironic, but it is the pursuit of profit and competition between firms that drives innovation, improves customer service, and keeps balanced prices. There can be no doubt that America's health care system needs reform, but government involvement as the bill calls for will only make the current situation worse and it will eventually lead us to a universal health care plan, where the government becomes America's sole health-care administrator and provider. Many countries around the globe have adopted a universal health care plan,

yet for some reason, those who can afford it come to America to receive treatment. In Canada and Great Britain the process for receiving treatment can take so long that those with life threatening conditions are forced to make the trip to the United States, where they can be seen and treated right away. There is no doubt that the health care bill is one of the most debated topics in American politics. This bill, regardless of whether it will be effective or not, will impact our lives as Americans and it is important to understand the government was designed to be run for, by, and of the people. This means that we have a role to keep our government

leaders accountable and make sure that we understand both sides of every issue so we can make the best decisions. The newest version of the health care was passed in the House of Representatives by only five votes; it would be a shame if a bill of this size and nature would be passed without substantial input from the American people themselves.

