One Million Low-Income Americans Hit with Obamacare Penalty

Citizens’ Council for Health Freedom Says a Flawed Health Care System is Hitting Neediest Americans Where It Hurts Most

ST. PAUL, Minn.—Many low-income families are foregoing Obamacare coverage, perhaps because of the cost. Now, one million of them will be hit with a penalty for non-coverage, according to a recent report by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO).

The CBO report estimates that four million people will pay the individual mandate penalty for not having health insurance by 2016.

About 200,000 of those paying the penalty have earnings below the poverty line—or less than $11,670 for a single-person household and $23,850 for a family of four. Another 800,000 who will be penalized are considered low-income, earning between 100 percent and 199 percent of the poverty level.

Citizens’ Council for Health Freedom (CCHF, www.cchfreedom.org), a Minnesota-based national organization dedicated to preserving patient-centered health care and protecting patient and privacy right, says the Obamacare penalties are hitting the neediest Americans where it hurts the most.

“The coming penalty phase of the ‘Affordable’ Care Act is yet another blow against low-income Americans who already can’t afford health care coverage under the law that deceptively promised them affordable coverage,” said Twila Brase, president and co-founder of CCHF. “Now, Obamacare penalties are targeting struggling Americans—and all in an attempt to keep an extremely unpopular, flawed health care system afloat.

“Under the spin of affordable health coverage, this Administration created a monstrosity that’s now forcing hardworking, low-income Americans to pay government fines for choosing not to accept costly and dangerous health plans that limit their health care choices, endanger their finances and
jeopardize their privacy. These confiscatory policies are going to surprise many Americans and make them even less happy with Obamacare than they are today. The government’s claim on the wages of low-income workers is just one more reason Obamacare must be repealed.”

The government will collect about $4 billion in uninsured penalties for 2016. An estimated $5 billion in penalties will be collected annually from 2017-2014. This year, Americans opting not to purchase health insurance will pay a fine of $95 or 1 percent of their household’s adjusted gross income—whichever is greater. By 2016, the minimum fines will have increased to $695 or 2.5 percent of the household income.

Celebrating its 20th year, Citizens’ Council for Health Freedom is a patient-centered national health freedom organization based in St. Paul, Minn. CCHF exists to protect health care choices and patient privacy. CCHF sponsors the daily, 60-second radio feature, Health Freedom Minute, which airs on more than 150 stations nationwide on the American Family Radio Network and 90-plus stations on the Bott Radio Network. Listeners can learn more about the agenda behind proposed health care initiatives and steps they can take to protect their health care choices, rights and privacy.

CCHF president and co-founder Twila Brase, R.N., has been called one of the “100 Most Powerful People in Health Care” and one of “Minnesota’s 100 Most Influential Health Care Leaders.” Brase, a public health nurse, has been interviewed by CNN, Fox News, Minnesota Public Radio, NBC Nightly News, NBC’s Today Show, NPR, New York Public Radio, the Associated Press, Modern Healthcare, TIME, The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post and The Washington Times, among others. She is at the forefront of informing the public of crucial health issues, such as intrusive wellness and prevention initiatives in Obamacare, patient privacy, informed consent, the dangers of “evidence-based medicine” and the implications of state and federal health care reform.

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