Tribe Wants Special ACA Exemption

The Northern Arapaho Tribe has sued to get an exemption from the Obamacare employer mandate, which requires employers with 50 or more employees to offer health insurance. A court has ruled that the tribe is legally a large employer under Obamacare and must provide insurance to its employees. But the tribe wants its employees to use the Obamacare exchange, potentially accessing taxpayer-funded premium subsidies.

Tribes say penalties for failure to comply would reduce money available for tribe services. But this is true for every business and every individual. Amazingly, Republicans have bills to exempt Indian tribes from the employer mandate. The bills should not pass, and the tribes should fight for repeal, not special privileges.