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Study: Affordable Care Act Leaves Major Problems Unaddressed

Paper argues that the need for health care reform is as pressing today as it was in 2010.

ROCKVILLE, MD—As House Republicans battle Senate Democrats and the White House over implementation of the 2010 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), a new paper from the Maryland Public Policy Institute argues that PPACA fails to address major problems with the American health care system.

In “Why America Still Needs Health Care Reform,” Maryland Public Policy Institute senior fellow Thomas A. Firey states that PPACA ultimately pursues only two policy goals: (1) to make it easier for people with serious health conditions to purchase coverage, and (2) to expand the use of health insurance. Yet, he argues, there are more efficient, less convoluted, and lower-cost policy options for achieving those goals.

More importantly, Firey explains, PPACA fails to address—and may even exacerbate—serious problems with the American health care system. Currently, the system suffers from high and rapidly increasing prices, poor quality, financially unsustainable government health care programs, and the prominent use of employer-based health care coverage that is both inefficient and unstable. Those problems will continue to harm American health care under PPACA. Firey concludes that U.S. health care remains in dire need of serious reform regardless of the outcome of the shutdown fight over PPACA.

The new paper is available on the Maryland Public Policy Institute website at mdpolicy.org.

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