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Letters to the Editor

A 'public plan' would be costly

When it comes to politics, the best sign that you've got it right is when you're being attacked from both sides. The long-awaited bill from the Senate Finance Committee, chaired by Sen. Max Baucus (D., Mont.) is drawing criticism from Democrats and Republicans alike.

As a member of the New Jersey Association of Health Underwriters, I commend President Obama for saying he will not sign a bill that will increase the deficit. The Baucus bill currently stays within those lines, according to the Congressional Budget Office. But adding a "public plan" will drive up the cost of the bill to the point where it will no longer be revenue neutral.

Obama has told us we will be able to keep our current health insurance if we are happy with it. But adding a public plan that competes on unequal footing with private plans will change the whole equation.

As the public plan dictates what it will pay doctors and hospitals - just like Medicare and Medicaid - lost revenue will be shifted onto private plan ratepayers.

Douglas Lubenow

Mount Laurel