

Under Obamacare, illegal aliens will continue to drive-up healthcare costs



Getty Images



Dave Gibson
Immigration Reform Examiner

October 31, 2012

The government watchdog group, Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) has reported that among certain other groups, the nation's illegal alien population will be exempt from paying the annual Obamacare tax of \$695 to \$2,085. The penalty will be charged to those who do not have government-approved health insurance.

ATR recently told the **Washington Examiner**: "Classes of individuals who are exempt from the mandate include but are not limited to: those serving sentences in the

federal penitentiary system; those persons not legally able to work in the U.S.; welfare recipients (since they are below the poverty line); and those qualifying for an HHS-granted religious exemption."

Actually, **section 1501** of the Affordable Care Act provides exemptions for several groups, including those currently incarcerated in federal prison, Native Americans, those living below the poverty line (est. 42 million) and millions of illegal aliens.

Of course, the number one culprit behind out-of-control health care costs are those here illegally, who use our emergency room doctors as their own (free) personal physicians.

Along with a host of other crimes, illegal aliens are stealing health care for which the rest of us must pay.

The enormous bills which illegal aliens leave unpaid at American hospitals, leave those hospitals with two choices: They can either distribute those costs among their paying customers, or operate annually at a loss and eventually close their doors.

In 2003, the American Southwest saw 77 hospitals enter bankruptcy due to unpaid medical bills incurred by illegal aliens. Over the last several years, a staggering 84 hospitals in California alone have been forced out of business due to the growing crisis. Hospitals which manage to remain open, pass the unpaid costs onto the rest of us, which translates into more out-of-pocket expenses and higher insurance premiums for Americans.

Everyday, pregnant Mexican and Central American women on the verge of giving birth, make their way across the U.S. border to have their baby in an American hospital. These children become infamous "Anchor Babies" so prized by their criminal parents. Once the child is born on American soil, he or she instantly attains U.S. citizenship. Not only are the parents almost always allowed to stay, but since they have no income, the baby is eligible for welfare, WIC, Food Stamps, etc.--all at the expense of the great American taxpayer.

At one of North Carolina's **Goshen Medical Centers**, nursing assistant Jessica Roberts told **USAToday** in 2008, about an illegal alien who arrived more than eight months pregnant with her eighth child!

There are 350,000 of these so-called '**Anchor Babies**' born in the U.S. every year. It is estimated that they consume \$118 billion annually in government services.

A 2007 **March of Dimes** survey placed the average cost of an uncomplicated, vaginal birth in a U.S. hospital at \$8,800, with the average cost of a cesarean birth at \$11,000.

Of course, these hospitals have no choice but to treat these women along with their newborn babies. However, the bills racked-up in the process always go unpaid.

According to a 2002 **report** by the **United States/Mexico Border Counties Coalition**, counties along the Mexican border lost over \$800 million in health care services, at least 25% of that could be attributed to unpaid bills incurred by illegal aliens.

The American border states currently shoulder the brunt of the burden, for instance the Texas state comptroller estimates illegal aliens cost hospitals \$1.3 billion in 2006 alone.

In California, a 2004 study conducted by the **Federation for American Immigration Reform** placed the now bankrupt state's annual cost for treating illegal aliens at \$1.4 billion.

But with the spread of illegal immigration now throughout the U.S., the same such studies in 2005 found that health care costs for illegal aliens in Colorado and Minnesota were \$31 million and \$17 million, respectively.

In recent years, North Carolina has seen an explosion in the state's illegal alien population, as well as sky-rocketing medical costs.

According to a **University of North Carolina** study, one in four new residents to the state from 1990 to 2004 was an illegal alien. The Pew Hispanic Center claims there are now more than 300,000 illegal aliens living in North Carolina.

In 2008, Jeff Spade, vice president of the North Carolina Hospital Association **told** USA Today: "It's exploded the amount for hospitals, the burden of the uninsured immigrant is huge. It's exploded the amount of work that they have to do."

A March 2007 **article** in the Journal of the American Medical Association claimed that during the period 2001-2004, emergency Medicaid costs for illegal aliens rose by 28 percent in North Carolina.

Duplin General Hospital in Kanansville, NC, now faces a rather bleak financial future due to the large influx of illegal aliens, and their unpaid medical bills. CEO Harvey Case recently addressed the hospital's lack of profits, when he said: "We're living off reserves."

U.S. hospitals often seek help for the unpaid bills as well as with transportation back to Mexico from the Mexican Consulate offices. However, the Mexican government rarely even arranges flights for their severely injured citizens to return home.

The illegal alien patient usually ends up staying in the hospital for weeks or months, with the hospital usually paying for a flight home, along with the enormous unpaid bill.

A 2008 New York Times **article** told the incredible story of a 1999 Florida car crash which left Guatemalan national Luis Alberto Jimenez's with severe and permanent physical and mental injuries. After spending more than \$1 million on Jimenez's treatment, and failed attempts to secure assistance from the government of Guatemala, the Florida hospital eventually paid to

fly Jimenez back to his own country.

The incredible part of the story...Jimenez is now suing the Florida hospital, which he now says "falsely imprisoned" him and deported him against his will, to avoid anymore unpaid medical bills.

We have been told by our government that the number of illegal aliens currently inside the U.S. is about 12 million. However, we have been given this same figure for the last ten years, and even then that figure was considered very low by those who have studied the problem of illegal immigration.

Though President Obama will never mention this hard truth, if we simply ordered all illegal aliens out of the country and deported the ones who refused the order, as well as placed our military along the border...Healthcare costs would stop rising and could even drop.

We do not need a government takeover of the best healthcare system in the world, nor do we need an **amnesty** for illegal aliens, we only need to defend our border and expel those here illegally.

It's really very simple...Put an end to illegal immigration, and you put an end to the 'healthcare crisis.'

Read more on this subject:

Joe Wilson was right...Illegal aliens are covered by Obamacare

Illegal aliens now getting free dental care

Illegal alien? Relax, you're covered!

Obama administration providing taxpayer-funded abortions to illegal aliens

Illegal aliens cost California hospitals more than \$1 billion annually