



THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

Chairman Darrell Issa Preview Statement, November 22 Full
Committee NC Field Hearing

**“ObamaCare Implementation: Sticker Shock of Increased
Premiums for Healthcare Coverage”**

The House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is holding an official congressional hearing in Gastonia, North Carolina to hear firsthand accounts from Americans who have experienced increased premiums and dropped insurance coverage brought on by ObamaCare.

While the President and other authors of ObamaCare repeatedly promised “if you like your health plan, you can keep it,” even he’s admitted that wasn’t true. As of November 19th, more than 4.7 million health insurance policies have been cancelled in 32 states because they fail to comply with ObamaCare’s new regulations and mandates. For each single reported ObamaCare enrollment in state and federal exchanges, 44 people have received cancellation notices. In North Carolina alone, more than 473,000 people have lost their health insurance because of plan terminations. Local news reports have found that thousands of people were surprised to discover their insurance plans will be canceled at the end of the year.

The Committee will listen to the testimony of five local North Carolinians, who will tell their stories of increased premiums and dropped coverage as a result of the President’s landmark legislative achievement. Many people who lost their coverage

will find that they have fewer choices of coverage in the health insurance exchanges than existed in the past. According to recent research from the Heritage Foundation, there are currently 12 insurers offering coverage in North Carolina's individual market. Only 2 insurers have decided to offer coverage in North Carolina's federal exchange next year. This is a tremendous decrease in market competition in North Carolina and will lead to higher health insurance premiums for individuals in those states.

According to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), ObamaCare will increase the net cost of health insurance by 14% in 2014 compared to a 3.5% projected increase without the law. The Manhattan Institute published a state-by-state analysis of the impact of ObamaCare on premiums. According to the report, in the average state, ObamaCare will increase underlying premiums by 41 percent. The average premium increase in North Carolina is 136%, the fourth highest increase in the country.

ObamaCare creates a new tax on health insurance. This tax could cost the typical family of four with workplace coverage as much as \$1,000 a year in higher premiums. ObamaCare is creating uncertainty about future health care costs and burdening businesses with higher taxes. There is evidence that ObamaCare is leading employers to cut full-time workers and replace them with part-time staff. Despite the Administration's delay of the employer mandate, many businesses are continuing to adjust employment policies to keep worker hours under 30 hours per week cap and/or total employment below 50 full-time workers.

We will hear from local businesses on how they are managing under the healthcare law.

When the President's signature law, The Affordable Care Act, was passed three and a half years ago along partisan lines, the Act gave the Administration the funds it wanted; more than three years time to complete work; and total control of implementing the law. The website, healthcare.gov, is a colossal failure. And the policies forced on Americans behind that website are even more problematic. Now millions of Americans are discovering how the sweeping changes necessitated by the Affordable Care Act are making health care less affordable for them, despite the name. This hearing will let the public and members of Congress learn more about the effects of this law on every day Americans' lives. I hope we can all learn from their stories.