Monumental Health Care Vote Looms

Proposal Would Insure Millions More

BOSTON -- Congress is expected to vote Sunday on a bill that could fundamentally change health care in the United States.

President Barack Obama's health care bill would cost $940 billion over 10 years and would insure 32 million Americans who are currently uninsured. Almost everyone would be required to have health insurance or pay a fine. Families earning less than $88,000 would get subsidies to help pay for it.

There would be new marketplaces to help people who do not get their insurance at work, and insurance companies would no longer be able to deny coverage to people with pre-existing medical conditions.

But how does the president plan to pay for all of this? There will be higher taxes for individuals who make $200,000 a year or more and couples who earn more than $250,000 a year.

The president plans to cut $500 billion from Medicare. Most of it will be taken from the Medicare Advantage program, which pays for private insurance coverage for senior citizens.

The president said his plan will reduce the deficit.


"This bill is fantastic for Massachusetts," Marky said. "This is a big win, win, win for our state, and we will be ringing excess waste and fraud out of the Medicare program, but the benefits we receive will be overwhelming."


Rep. John Tierney and Rep. Michael Capuano have yet to announce how they will vote.

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