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From
GEORGE J. COHEN



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Health Care Reform to Cost One Trillion Dollars—Congressional Budget Office

As Congress returned from the holiday break on July 6th, Health Care Reform once again has moved front and center.

There are two major sticking points. The first is how to find the one trillion dollars the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office has stated any of the proposals released so far will cost over ten years. The other is the insistence of liberal democrats that a government sponsored plan be part of a new health insurance exchange.

As for the first sticking point, funding, the latest proposals include increasing taxes for high earners on a sliding scale. This, of course will hit high cost states like New York par-



ticularly hard. As for the second sticking point, a government run plan, the ostensible rationale is to keep insurance companies honest.

However, we think it is a

disguised effort to start the process towards a single payer system.

Meanwhile, on the private sector front, Oxford has introduced their new Liberty Network HMO plan available in all New York counties beginning with a July 1st effective date. This option should be considered when quoting the EPO plans.

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