

# Health Care Reform:

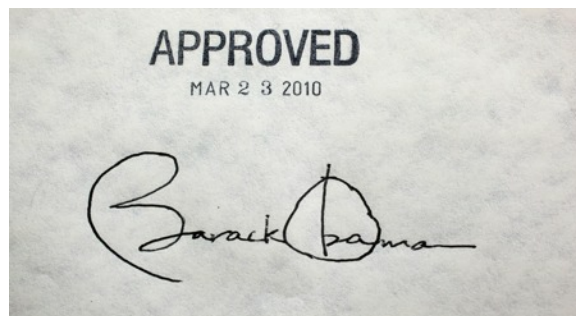
*A Legislative History of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act,  
Public Law No. 111-148 (2010)*

Compiled and edited by  
Bernard D. Reams, Jr., J.D., Ph.D. & Michael P. Forrest, M.S., J.D.

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## *New From Hein*

**February 24, 2009: President Obama addresses a joint session of Congress on the imminent need for healthcare reform, stating that “we’ve done more to advance the cause of the health care reform in the last 30 days than we’ve done in the last decade.”**



President Barack H. Obama signed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act into law on March 23, 2010. The Act was the centerpiece of the three key reform initiatives accomplished during the first year and a half of the Obama administration. The \$800 billion stimulus package and the financial reform act addressed the distinctly dire economic times that beset the early period of Obama’s presidential term; health insurance reform tackled a more than a century-long need for some form of comprehensive legislative action to help Americans obtain health insurance coverage. It remains to be seen whether the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Public Law 111-48, is the appropriate means of reform in time, scope, and in its approach. Some of the initial reform measures listed by Obama include:

- Giving tax credits to four million small business owners
- Eliminating the practice by insurance companies of denying coverage to children with preexisting conditions
- Prohibiting insurance companies from dropping coverage on those who get sick
- Requiring that all new insurance plans offer free preventative care
- Allowing parents to keep their children on their policies until they turn 26
- Paying seniors \$250 to help cover the costs of prescriptions and fill the so-called donut hole in their Medicare plans.

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