

# Fines proposed for going without...

PAGE A1 ◀

support the idea. The fast-moving developments put Obama in a box. As a candidate, he opposed fines to force individuals to buy health insurance, and he supported setting up a government insurance plan.

Democratic leaders put on a bold front as they left the White House after their meeting with the president.

"We're re-energized; we're ready to do health care reform," said Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., insisted the public plan is still politically viable. "I believe that a public option will be essential to our passing a bill in the House of Representatives," she said.

After a month of contentious forums, Americans were seeking specifics from the president in his speech to a joint session of Congress on Wednesday night. So were his fellow Democrats, divided on how best to solve the problem of the nation's nearly 50 million uninsured.

The latest proposal: a bipartisan compromise that Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., a moderate who heads the influential Finance Committee, was trying to broker.

Baucus, meeting with a small group of fellow senators, promoted a plan that would guarantee coverage for nearly all Americans at a cost to taxpayers of under \$900 billion over 10 years.

Some experts consider that a relative bargain because the country now spends about \$2.5 trillion a year on health care. But it would require hefty fees on insurers, drug companies and others in the health care industry to help pay for it.

Just as auto coverage is now mandatory in most states, Baucus would require that all Americans get health insurance once the system is overhauled. Penalties for failing to get insurance would start at \$750 a year for individuals and \$1,500 for families. Households making more than three times the federal poverty level - about \$66,000 for a family of four - would face the maximum fines. For families, it would be \$3,800, and for

individuals, \$950.

Baucus would offer tax credits to help pay premiums for households making up to three times the poverty level, and for small employers paying about average middle-class wages. People working for companies that offer coverage could avoid the fines by signing up.

The fines pose a dilemma for Obama. As a candidate, the president campaigned hard against making health insurance a requirement, and fining people for not getting it.

"Punishing families who can't afford health care to begin with just doesn't make sense," he said during his party's primaries. At the time, he proposed mandatory insurance only for children.

White House officials have since backed away somewhat from Obama's opposition to mandated coverage for all, but there's no indication that Obama would support fines.

One idea that Obama championed during and since the campaign - a government insurance option - appeared to be sinking fast.

House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, D-Md., told reporters a Medicare-like plan for middle-class Americans and their families isn't an essential part of legislation for him. Hoyer's comments came shortly after a key Democratic moderate said he could no longer back a bill that includes a new government plan.

The fast-moving developments left liberals in a quandary. They've drawn a line, saying they won't vote for legislation if it doesn't include a public plan to compete with private insurance companies and force them to lower costs.

Rep. Mike Ross, D-Ark., who once supported a public option, said Tuesday that after hearing from constituents during the August recess, he's changed his mind.

"If House leadership presents a final bill that contains a government-run public option, I will oppose it," Ross said.

Obama's commitment to a public plan has been in question and lawmakers hoped his speech to Congress would make his position on that clear.

He's called a public plan an important tool to help check the excesses of private industry. But his aides suggested on the weekend that he could sign legislation even if it does not include a public option.

In the Senate, the public plan is not part of Baucus' proposal. He's calling for nonprofit co-ops to compete in the marketplace instead.

An 18-page summary of the Baucus proposal was obtained by The Associated Press. The complex plan would make dozens of changes in the health care system, many of them contentious. For example, it includes new fees on insurers, drug companies, medical device manufacturers and clinical labs.

It would require insurers to take all applicants, regardless of age or health. But smokers could be charged higher premiums. And 60-year-olds could be charged five times as much for a policy as 20-year-olds.

People working for major employers would probably not see big changes. The plan is geared to helping those who now have the hardest time getting and keeping coverage: the self-employed and small business owners. New purchasing pools would be set up in each state, allowing them to band together and get some of the advantages big companies now have. (AP)

**MANILA, CEBU CLARK SPECIAL**

(8/17-11/27)	\$659 +tax
(11/28-12/9)	\$859 +tax
(12/11-12/22)	\$1259 +tax
(12/23-12/29)	\$859 +tax
(12/30-1/11)	\$759 +tax
(1/12-3/15)	\$659 +tax

**BEST TRAVEL**  
besttravelusa@yahoo.com

LA OFFICE: 841 S Vermont Ave., #108 Los Angeles, CA 90005 Tel: (213) 380-2529

VALLEY OFFICE: 17843 Sherman Way #102, Van Nuys, CA 91410 Tel: (818) 758-1456

toll free 888-423-9876

## WANT TO BE A REGISTERED NURSE?

### Now you can.

- Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- CA Board of Registered Nursing Approved (Since 2006)
- 2 ½ years (have pre-requisites)
- 3 years (without pre-requisites)
- No Waiting List
- Financial Aid Available (if qualified)

## AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

### Now Accepting Applications For Fall 2009

# Call 562.988.2278

Download Application at: [www.auhs.edu/bsn\\_information.html](http://www.auhs.edu/bsn_information.html)

1600 E. Hill Street  
Signal Hill, CA 90755  
[www.auhs.edu](http://www.auhs.edu)

# FILING FOR PERM? RELY ON US.

Under the PERM (Program Electronic Review Management) System, the process for labor certification will be significantly shortened to a matter of months instead of the 3-4 year span from the regular labor certification process. Count on Michael F. Eng and Bert S. Nishimura, reputable lawyers with an impressive history in immigration law to handle your PERM case with competence, credibility and confidence.

## ENG & NISHIMURA A NAME YOU CAN TRUST



COMBINED 45 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE WITH IMMIGRATION CASES BOTH ARE GRADUATES OF ACCLAIMED UCLA SCHOOL OF LAW & HAVE HANDLED THOUSANDS OF IMMIGRATION CASES INCLUDING:

- Green Cards for Spouses, Children, Parents, Brothers & Sisters
- Green Cards & Work Permits for Registered Nurses, Accountants, Medical Doctors, Teachers, Medical Technologists, Ministers, Religious Workers, Travel Agents, Computer Analysts, Architects, Bilingual Secretaries, Staff Writers and Journalists, Cooks, Engineers, Managers, Investors, Child and Elder care workers, and many, many more!
- Expedited Green Cards for Children about to turn 21 years old.
- U.S. Citizenship for all green card holders, and children in the U.S. but who have one parent who is a citizen.

CALL NOW FOR FREE CONSULTATION CONCERNING PERM, NEW LAW EXPEDITED PROCESSING FOR NURSES AND EMPLOYMENT BASED GREENCARDS

Experienced & Friendly Staff of 6 Lawyers & 10 Staff • Competitive and Reasonable Prices • Experienced in Taking the Hard Cases • Offices Close to All Freeways • Major Credit Cards Accepted.

**213.622.2255**  
1055 W. SEVENTH STREET, #1780  
(Where Seventh Street Crosses Over the 110 Harbor Freeway)

## Pilipino po tayo! LAW OFFICES OF KENNETH U. REYES, P.C. ATTORNEY-AT-LAW



- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>IMMIGRATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• US Citizenship</li> <li>• Green Card</li> </ul> <p><i>Marriage Petitions, Realtive Petitions<br/>Employer Petitions, PERM</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visa</li> <li>H-1B Temporary Worker<br/>Investor's VISA</li> <li>• Deportation Defense</li> </ul> <p><b>PERSONAL INJURY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Serious Auto Accidents</li> <li>• Rear Enders</li> <li>• Injuries from defective products</li> <li>• Serious injuries from premises accidents</li> <li>• Fractures &amp; brain injuries from accidents</li> </ul> | <p><b>FAMILY LAW</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Divorce</li> <li>• Property Division</li> <li>• Child Custody and Visitation</li> <li>• Child and Spousal Support</li> <li>• Domestic Violence Restraining Order</li> <li>• Legal Separation</li> </ul> <p><b>CIVIL LITIGATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business Disputes</li> <li>• Real Estate Disputes</li> <li>• Breach of Contract</li> <li>• Partnership Dissolution</li> <li>• Business Dissolution</li> </ul> |
|--|---|

We Pay Special Attention to Your Case  
Call for an Appointment  
**(213)388.1611**  
website: [www.kenreyeslaw.com](http://www.kenreyeslaw.com)  
email: [kureyeslaw@aol.com](mailto:kureyeslaw@aol.com)