

IS Compromise Possible in the Political Battle Over Health Reform?

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Where Innovation Is Tradition

Answer(s):

- Are you kidding me?
- NO. At least, not until November, 2012
- And Then, **ONLY** if Obama wins re-election, Dems hold 45 Senate seats or regain the House, **AND** SCOTUS says mandate OK
- Assuming all this happens...

December 2012

- Serious negotiations will begin
 - MANY will then want reform to work
 - All but the most ideological governors
 - Most health plans you can name
 - Hospitals
 - Physician leaders
 - Smarter large employers
 - Moderate R people will want reform to work

What “making Reform work” looks like

- More State flexibility
- Acknowledge local R’s need to modify PPACA
- Acknowledge legitimate criticisms of PPACA
- Stick to overall goals of PPACA, which are laudable and defensible

What will be on table

- Budget failsafe, strengthened IPAB
- Transparency on steroids
- Malpractice reform
- More State flexibility on:
 - Essential benefits package
 - Putting folks above poverty into exchange
 - Medicaid benefit packages and networks
 - Trust but verify

IF Supreme says no federal mandate

- Cato will have a big party
- If Obama still wins:
 - Insurers will say no guaranteed issue without major league “plan B” to insure balanced risk pools
 - We’ll have an adult conversation about the kind of insurance markets we really want
 - We might get well funded high risk pools
- If Obama loses...

Republicans will reveal their plan

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I'll follow Stuart in his tri-corner hat...

