

Sign In | Register Now

The Washington Post

TODAY'S NEWSPAPER  
Subscribe | PostPoints

Advertisement

CITIBANK® Savings Plus Account

**1.01%** APY\*

For balances of \$25,000 or more.

A smart investment begins with a Citibank® Savings Plus Account.

[» Learn more](#)

NEWS | POLITICS | OPINIONS | BUSINESS | LOCAL | SPORTS | ARTS & LIVING | GOING OUT GUIDE | JOBS | CARS | REAL ESTATE | RENTALS | CLASSIFIEDS

SEARCH:  Try Our New Search  | [Search Archives](#)

[Main Page](#) | [About Health Care Rx](#) | [The Panel](#) | [RSS Feed](#)



CANCER SURVIVOR

Doug Ulman

Doug Ulman is a three-time cancer survivor and president of the Lance Armstrong Foundation.

THE DAILY DOSE



'Trust but verify' those Dems

Congressional Republicans distanced themselves Thursday from the recent bipartisan talk of President Obama, launching a "trust but verify" program for dealing with Democrats in the months ahead.

Interact: [Track Obama's campaign promises](#)  
Graphic: [Either way, a small effect](#)

Advertisement

RECENT POSTS

- [Back to Square One?](#)
- [The way forward](#)
- [Small step for Nancy, big step for reform](#)
- [First insure those in need!](#)
- [Require insurance; reform Medicare](#)

Stories By Category

- [Abortion](#)
- [Cooperatives](#)
- [Crime](#)
- [Doctors](#)
- [Economic crisis](#)
- [Electronic medical records](#)
- [Employer health plans](#)
- [Health Care Reform](#)
- [Health costs](#)
- [Individual mandate](#)
- [Insurance](#)
- [Leadership](#)
- [Malpractice](#)
- [market competition](#)
- [Medicare](#)
- [Pharmaceutical Companies](#)
- [Politics](#)
- [Prescriptions](#)
- [Presidential leadership](#)
- [Prevention](#)
- [Primary Care](#)
- [Public option](#)
- [Public policy](#)
- [Taxes](#)

Stories By Date

- [Full Story Archive](#)

Back to Square One?

Is it all starting over now? Rep. Pelosi this week called for a vote on a bill that would revoke the insurance industry's exemption from antitrust laws. Most Americans would agree that health insurers should play by the same rules as everyone else in business. In and of itself, it's as good a place to start again as any.

But it can't end there. If Congress chooses to tackle reform issue by issue, a declaration of victory will fall flat with Americans unless there's a measure that prevents discrimination for pre-existing conditions, a measure that prohibits annual and lifetime limits and a mechanism to control the increasingly hard to afford costs of coverage.

The danger of taking it piece by piece is that without the cost control mechanism, the pre-existing conditions ban will inevitably drive costs up for everyone. The two have to go hand in hand.

While a small bill approach may be politically palatable, the best policy outcome for people affected by cancer would be passing a comprehensive health care reform bill.

BY DOUG ULMAN | FEBRUARY 5, 2010; 2:30 PM ET | CATEGORY: [HEALTH CARE REFORM](#)

SAVE & SHARE:

PREVIOUS: [THE WAY FORWARD](#) |

[Post a Comment](#)

**Dear Readers:** We now require commenters to register at washingtonpost.com and sign in before posting. Your MyPost User ID, which you'll be asked to choose if you haven't done so already, will be displayed with your comment. We hope this will encourage more topical, spam-free, and respectful discussions. Please review the [full rules](#) governing commentaries and discussions, and [click here to comment](#).

SUBSCRIBE TO THIS BLOG

RSS Feed





**Sponsored Links**

**Penny Stock Jumping 2000%**  
 Sign up to the #1 PennyStock Newsletter Online For Free Today  
[www.AwesomePennyStocks.com](http://www.AwesomePennyStocks.com)

**Acai Berry Diet WARNING**  
 Health Reporter Discovers The Shocking Truth About The Acai Berry Diet  
[Consumers-Weekly.com](http://Consumers-Weekly.com)

[Buy a link here](#)

[RSS Feed](#)   [Subscribe to The Post](#)

© 2010 The Washington Post Company

SEARCH:  [go](#) | [Search Archives](#)

[NEWS](#) | [POLITICS](#) | [OPINIONS](#) | [BUSINESS](#) | [LOCAL](#) | [SPORTS](#) | [ARTS & LIVING](#) | [GOING OUT GUIDE](#) | [JOBS](#) | [CARS](#) | [REAL ESTATE](#) | [RENTALS](#) | [CLASSIFIEDS](#)

**washingtonpost.com:** [Help](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Advertisers](#) | [Site Index](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Make Us Your Home Page](#) | [mywashingtonpost.com](#) | [Work for Us](#) | [Mobile](#) | [RSS](#)  
**The Washington Post:** [Subscribe](#) | [Subscriber Services](#) | [Advertisers](#) | [e-Replica](#) | [Online Photo Store](#) | [The Washington Post Store](#)  
**The Washington Post Company:** [Information and Other Post Co. Websites](#)

© Copyright 1996-2010 The Washington Post Company | [User Agreement and Privacy Policy](#) | [Rights and Permissions](#)