

Urgent: Say no to the "trigger"

Can you submit a comment on the White House comment page?

Urge President Obama to say no to a public option "trigger," which would delay or eliminate entirely the public health insurance option.

[Submit your comment](#)

Dear MoveOn member,

Recent news reports are saying that **White House negotiators are considering** a public option "trigger" in health care reform—a favorite idea of conservatives that would postpone the public health insurance option for years or eliminate it entirely.¹ We can't afford to wait for real health care reform. Can you submit a comment on the White House comment page urging President Obama to say no to the "trigger"?

Click here to submit your comment:

<http://www.moveon.org/r?r=51843&id=17165-9614650-50.twx&t=2> During negotiations on major bills like this, different proposals are often floated to gauge public reaction. So we need to respond quickly to make sure the "trigger" doesn't gain traction.

The trigger would make the creation of a public option dependent on whether insurance companies, years in the future, met a series of conditions—rather than creating one now.

In truth, the "trigger" is a trap to kill health care reform. Even if the "trigger" conditions are met years from now, big insurance companies will start the fight all over again to stop the public option from going into effect.

And as Senator Charles Schumer has pointed out, "any reasonable criteria for triggering a public plan has already been met" because insurance companies have already failed to rein in costs and expand coverage.² **The need for real reform was "triggered" long ago.**

Meanwhile, without a strong public health insurance option to compete with private insurance companies, health care costs will continue to skyrocket and millions will remain uninsured.³

Can you submit a comment on the White House comment page urging President Obama to say no to the "trigger?" Click here to submit your comment:

<http://www.moveon.org/r?r=51843&id=17165-9614650-50.twx&t=3>

Thanks for all you do.

–Nita, Justin, Wes, Kat, and the rest of the team

Sources:

1. "Health Care Idea Has Public Plan Only as Backup," The New York Times, September 3, 2009.
<http://www.moveon.org/r?r=51842&id=17165-9614650-50.twx&t=42>. "A 'trigger' for the public health insurance option? Already triggered." NOW! Blog, May 20, 2009.
<http://www.moveon.org/r?r=51443&id=17165-9614650-50.twx&t=6>

3. "A Trigger for the Public Option—A Plan to Kill the Public Option," NOW! Blog, September 4, 2009.
<http://www.moveon.org/r?r=51841&id=&t=7&id=17165-9614650-50.twx&t=7>

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