

# MEDIA FAIRNESS CAUCUS

## *A Look at Media Bias*

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## Media Ignore Disapproval of Obama, Policies 7/21/09

Support for President Obama and his policies has reached an all-time low in numerous polls. And while the national media were eager to tout the President's approval rating when it was higher, news outlets have been reluctant to cover the President's recent slide.



According to a new ABC News/Washington Post poll, fewer than half of Americans approve of the way President Obama is handling health care. That is down four points from last month and down nine points from April. The number of people who disapprove is up five points from June and 15 points from April. The poll is the third national survey to show that the President's approval rating on health care reform is under 50 percent, joining a CBS News poll and a Quinnipiac University survey.

**The ABC News/Washington Post poll also found that only 8 percent of people say they're better off since President Obama took office, 27 percent say "not as well off," and 64 percent say "about the same."**

The latest Rasmussen poll found that 37 percent of the nation's voters now Strongly Disapprove of President Obama. Only 30 percent Strongly Approve, giving the President an Approval Index rating of -7.

## Networks Ignore Key CBO Health Care Analysis; NYT Omits Democrat Opposition to Health Care Bill

• Last Thursday, Congressional Budget Office (CBO) Director Douglas Elmendorf told Congress that the current health care legislation would not "reduce the trajectory of federal health spending by a significant amount and, on the contrary, the legislation significantly expands the federal responsibility for health care costs." **Later that night, the evening news programs on both CBS and NBC failed to acknowledge the CBO's key finding.**



• In an article from last week with the headline, "Health Care Vote Illustrates Partisan Divide," The New York Times makes it seem like Republicans are the only ones opposing President Obama's health care legislation. **Not once does the Times mention that many Democrats have expressed opposition to the legislation. In fact, recently 40 Democrats sent a letter to Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi saying that they could not support the House leadership's healthcare bill unless major changes were made.**

## AP Ignores Biden's 'Bankrupt' Quote

At an AARP town hall meeting last week, Vice President Joe Biden said: "We're going to go bankrupt as a nation ... Now, people when I say that look at me and say, 'What are you talking about, Joe? You're telling me we have to go spend money to keep from going bankrupt?' The answer is yes, that's what I'm telling you."

**In its story about the town hall meeting, the Associated Press failed to mention the Vice President's quote.**

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