



May 9, 2014

## RECONCILING SEEMINGLY CONTRARY CLAIMS ABOUT FIGHTING OBAMACARE.

*By David Ferguson*

A few Arkansas candidates who voted for the “private option” as state legislators are making the following seemingly contradictory claims: **(1) I fought against Obamacare and Medicaid expansion; and (2) I support the “private option” which has nothing to do with Obamacare Medicaid expansion.** Critics of these claims say the candidates are using political double speak to avoid a backlash from their base, which is made up primarily of people who do not like anything about Obamacare or government expansion.

I am happy to announce that I have discovered a way for these two claims to both be true. You only have to overcome a few problematic items. Here is a simple path to proving that the two claims can both be true.

All you need to do is demonstrate that:

- The **federal government must have lied** when they say on their website that Arkansas expanded Medicaid.<sup>1</sup>
- A multitude of **maps showing Medicaid expansion states** must all be wrong because each shows Arkansas as a Medicaid expansion state.<sup>2</sup>
- It must have been a pure coincidence that the **private option** and **Obamacare Medicaid Expansion** both cover families up to 138% of the federal poverty level.<sup>3</sup>
- Some **unknown mysterious law** must exist for Arkansas to get approval for the private option, since the only known authorization to expand to 138% and have the feds to pay for most of it comes from Obamacare Medicaid expansion.
- The **Arkansas Department of Human Services** must have used the wrong form to get approval for the private option because the 1115 waiver is obtaining flexibility on financing Medicaid or delivering Medicaid services and is not for creating a program unrelated to Medicaid.<sup>4</sup>
- The **Arkansas Department of Human Services** must have been confused when submitting the waiver application because the application talks about Arkansas Medicaid expansion, how the private option provides an option to traditional Medicaid delivery<sup>5</sup>, and makes references to the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare).<sup>6</sup>

- The federal officials at the **Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services** must have been mistaken when they referenced Medicaid expansion in setting terms and conditions for Arkansas's private option.<sup>7</sup>
- The **media must have been hypnotized** into thinking that the private option is Obamacare Medicaid. Hypnotism victims include -- the **Arkansas Democrat Gazette**<sup>8</sup>, **Harrison Daily Times**<sup>9</sup>, **Hot Springs Daily**<sup>10</sup>, **Southwest Times Record**<sup>11</sup>, **Forbes**<sup>12</sup>, **Los Angeles Times**<sup>13</sup>, **Washington Times**<sup>14</sup>, etc.

See how easy it is to validate both claims. **You merely have to suspend reality.**

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.healthcare.gov/what-if-my-state-is-not-expanding-medicaid/#state=arkansas>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/files/2014/01/kff-medicaid-map.png> ; <http://www.plannedparenthoodaction.org/files/6913/8245/2356/10-22-13-US-Map-Medicaid-Expansion-480x370.png> ; [http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/state\\_edwatch/assets\\_c/2014/02/MedicaidExpansion-thumb-650x470-6939.png](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/state_edwatch/assets_c/2014/02/MedicaidExpansion-thumb-650x470-6939.png) ; [http://www.arktimes.com/imager/more-states-consider-medicaid-expansion-is-the-tide-beginning-to-turn/b/original/3251113/4cb9/DB\\_medicaid\\_map\\_lg\\_1.jpg](http://www.arktimes.com/imager/more-states-consider-medicaid-expansion-is-the-tide-beginning-to-turn/b/original/3251113/4cb9/DB_medicaid_map_lg_1.jpg) ; <http://i2.cdn.turner.com/money/dam/assets/130626160733-map-medicaid-620xa.png> ; <http://3.bp.blogspot.com/-bbQEJhY4IoI/Usmr7lGIRbI/AAAAAAAAEZU/qI5s4KFYK-4/s1600/medicaid+expansion+map.jpg>

<sup>3</sup> The Affordable Care Act actually says 133% but new methodology effectively makes it 138%

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.medicaid.gov/Medicaid-CHIP-Program-Information/By-Topics/Waivers/Waivers.html>

<sup>5</sup> <http://medicaid.gov/Medicaid-CHIP-Program-Information/By-Topics/Waivers/1115/downloads/ar/ar-private-option-pa.pdf> see page 3 of waiver "absent the demonstration, Arkansas' Medicaid expansion would rely on the existing Medicaid delivery system"

<sup>6</sup> <http://medicaid.gov/Medicaid-CHIP-Program-Information/By-Topics/Waivers/1115/downloads/ar/ar-private-option-pa.pdf> - references to the Affordable Care Act appear on pages 11, 12, and 29

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.medicaid.gov/Medicaid-CHIP-Program-Information/By-Topics/Waivers/1115/downloads/ar/ar-private-option-ca.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2014/mar/05/house-vote-private-option-20140305/>

<sup>9</sup> [http://harrisondaily.com/arkansas-house-votes--for-private-option/article\\_7ac268c4-a3fd-11e3-bbae-001a4bcf887a.html](http://harrisondaily.com/arkansas-house-votes--for-private-option/article_7ac268c4-a3fd-11e3-bbae-001a4bcf887a.html)

<sup>10</sup> <http://hotspringsdaily.com/vote-for-private-option-fails-second-day/>

<sup>11</sup> <http://swtimes.com/news/state-news/lawmakers-tax-cuts-set-regardless-what-happens-private-option>

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.forbes.com/sites/theapothecary/2014/04/08/arkansas-private-option-price-tag-is-rising-by-the-month-under-obamacares-medicaid-expansion-state-taxpayers-to-pay-tens-of-millions/>

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.latimes.com/business/hiltzik/la-fi-hiltzik-20140504-column.html#page=1>

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/mar/4/arkansas-house-votes-76-24-for-private-option/>