

NO, ARKANSAS, MEDICAID IS NOT AN “ENTITLEMENT.” IT’S A GIANT WALMART SUBSIDY

Arkansas, the home state of WalMart, just [passed a law](#) that will require “individuals” (by which it appears to mean biological humans) registering for Medicaid under ObamaCare’s expanded coverage to sign a document acknowledging that Medicaid is not an “entitlement.”

The Arkansas state legislature has [officially passed](#) legislation to use Medicaid expansion dollars to buy private insurance for some 250,000 state residents.

The [bill](#) used to do so contains one of the more unusual provisions I’ve ever seen in health-care legislation. It requires those enrolling in the Medicaid expansion to acknowledge that they’re not enrolling in an entitlement program. The relevant section:

- (i) An eligible individual enrolled in the program shall affirmatively acknowledge that:
 - (1) The program is not a perpetual federal or state right or a guaranteed entitlement;
 - (2) The program is subject to cancellation upon appropriate notice; and
 - (3) The program is not an entitlement program.

As a reminder, WalMart was involved in the design and passage of ObamaCare. The way in

which Medicaid got expanded – in which the only way an employer can fulfill its obligation to provide health insurance for employees free of cost is to ensure they all make less than the 138% of federal poverty level that would qualify them for expanded coverage.

It has been clear from the start that WalMart had every intention of using that loophole to get free coverage for a significant portion of its 1.4 million American employees. And why not? It was a strategy WalMart was already using.

Since then, WalMart has been – as I predicted – made the moves necessary to ensure its workers are poor enough to get that freebie, largely by shifting more of them to part time work.

To a significant extent, this built-in reward for employers that keep their employees in poverty was all designed with WalMart – which was on Obama's advisory committee – in mind. The Medicaid expansion, which, if you ignore the way it incentivizes companies to keep employees at poverty wages, is a really important benefit of ObamaCare, is also a huge federal subsidy for Arkansas' largest company.

So, no. Medicaid, especially in Arkansas, is not an "entitlement." For legal individuals like WalMart, it's actually a giant form of corporate welfare.

Maybe WalMart should also have to sign a form when its employees register, certifying that it knows it's the biggest welfare queen ever created?