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# The Detroit News

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Metro Edition



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# Senate unveils \$849B health bill

Proposed reforms set up historic debate on U.S. health care system

BY SHAILAGH MURRAY AND LORI MONTGOMERY  
Washington Post

Washington — Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid presented an \$849 billion health care overhaul package on Wednesday that would extend coverage to 31 million Americans and reform insurance practices while adding an array of tax increases, including a rise in payroll taxes for high earners.

Democratic leaders were jubilant that early estimates from congressional budget analysts indicated that the Senate bill would cut federal deficits by \$127 billion over the next decade. That projection represents the biggest cost savings of any legislation to come before the House or Senate this year, but the measure's effective date also was pushed back by one year, to 2014. Savings could prove far more significant in the long run, Democrats said, noting estimates that suggest the Senate bill would cut as much as \$650 billion from federal deficits over the second 10 years after becoming law.

Those projected reductions could prove critical in winning the support of three wavering moderate Democrats whose

votes Reid, D-Nev., must secure to bring the legislation to the floor before the Senate breaks for Thanksgiving. But Reid also stacked the bill with provisions sought by liberals, including a public insurance option, albeit a version with an opt-out clause for states.

The legislation received a positive response from across the Democratic spectrum. "This is the bill that we've been fighting for," said Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, who pressed Reid to revive the public option. Sen. Kent Conrad of North Dakota, the budget chairman and a leading Democratic fiscal hawk, said after a briefing on the bill, "I was very impressed by what Senator Reid has done."

The Senate measure is similar in scope to legislation the House approved earlier this month. It would require most people to buy insurance, and if their em-

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Daniel Mears / The Detroit News

Kwame Kilpatrick admitted Wednesday to getting a loan from a friend toward his restitution.

## FBI is probing Kilpatrick finances

Agent contradicts ex-mayor's testimony on family budget

BY DOUG GUTHRIE  
The Detroit News

Detroit — Testimony by an FBI agent investigating Kwame Kilpatrick's finances contradicted earlier statements by the former mayor about his involvement in the negotiations over the rent on his leased \$1 million home in Southlake, Texas.

Robert Beekman, the agent in charge of the ongoing corruption probe of Detroit City Hall, on Wednesday said a real estate agent in Texas told him Carlita Kipatrik called her husband to confirm final details of the lease before she signed it. His testimony signals the FBI is investigating Kilpatrick's finances.

Kilpatrick previously testified he didn't know how much the rent was because all of his family's financial affairs have been handled by his wife since he was sent to jail in October 2008.

"My wife is pissed at me," Kilpatrick said.

Despite earning \$120,000 a year as a salesman for Compuware subsidiary Covisint, Kilpatrick claims he is unable to make his court-ordered \$6,000 per month payments toward \$1 million in restitution he promised the city as part of guilty pleas to the text

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### JAMAR PINKNEY JR.

"All you had to do was reach out to him," said a parent volunteer at the Highland Park teen's high school. "He loved to talk."

## 'A tragedy for the whole family'



Steve Perez / The Detroit News

Family members packed the courtroom in Highland Park on Wednesday to watch the arraignment of Jamar Pinkney Sr. on charges of killing his 15-year-old son, Jamar Jr.

## Detroit man charged with execution-style slaying of son, 15, as he pleaded for his life

BY SANTIAGO ESPARZA  
The Detroit News

Highland Park — Jamar Pinkney Jr. was known as "Teddy Bear" by parent volunteers at Martin Luther King Jr. High School for his willingness to give hugs and share smiles as he walked the hallways.

"He would come up and hug you," said volunteer Barbara Pittman. "He was always smiling."

On Wednesday, his father, Jamar Pinkney Sr., stood mute as he was arraigned in 30th District Court in Highland Park on charges he fatally shot Jamar Jr. in the head Monday in a grassy field.

The 37-year-old Detroit postal worker will remain jailed pending a

Dec. 1 preliminary hearing.

"There is nothing normal about killing your child," said Yolanda Cherry, Jamar Jr.'s aunt, as she choked back tears before the arraignment. "This is so sad."

The court hearing pulled together details that have seeped out from police and family surrounding the 15-year-old's death: His naked march to the field, allegations of his inappropriate physical contact with a relative and the brutal end, with relatives describing a terrified boy begging for his life.

Jamar Sr. is charged with three counts of felonious assault and one

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### JAMAR PINKNEY SR.

The Detroit postal worker will remain jailed pending a Dec. 1 preliminary hearing.

## 'Different' Chrysler zeroes in on quality

Executive promises big gains by 2012

BY ALISA PRIDDLE  
The Detroit News

Chrysler Group LLC is backing claims that it will be a quality leader by the end of 2012 with a revamped, refocused and much larger quality team, tougher standards and a commitment to achieving sustainable quality gains crucial to its long-term success by changing company culture.

"It's different now," said Doug Betts, senior vice president in charge of quality at Chrysler. "People are talking openly about problems now and how to fix (them)."

In an exclusive interview Wednesday with The Detroit News, Betts said changing Chrysler's culture to collectively attack quality problems has been as difficult — and essential — as making better cars.

Uneven product quality has been Chrysler's Achilles heel for decades and addressing the

problem a top priority under a series of corporate owners and chief executives. Most recently, Cerberus Capital Management LP pledged change and two years ago recruited Betts from Nissan Motor Co. to get it done, but Chrysler ran out of money and ultimately into bankruptcy. Cerberus bought Chrysler from Germany's Daimler AG, which

talked a good quality game but failed to execute.

The result: Chrysler, Dodge and Jeep cars and trucks have scored poorly in a variety of quality surveys in recent years, scaring consumers away.

Betts doesn't waste time talking about the past. Today, he says, there is company-wide support for doing what it takes to improve quality and everything from management structures to manufacturing processes has been overhauled.

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