

***Universal Health Insurance:  
The Four Questions***

**Henry J. Aaron**

**Bruce and Virginia MacLaury Senior Fellow  
The Brookings Institution**

***Universal Health Insurance:  
Can It Rise From the Dead?***

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# ***1. Will Congress enact universal health insurance coverage soon?***

## **Things to think about:**

- Representative Wyden's bill would increase federal spending by \$800 billion and the deficit by \$165 billion
- Medicare-for-all would increase federal spending and the budget deficit by a similar amount
- Do you think that there is any prospect of getting 60 votes in the Senate for such a bill?

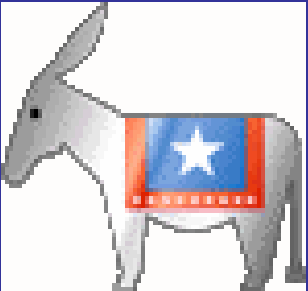
## 2. Is state action likely?

- How can you ask? *Its happening!*
- Many states are ready to move even without assistance
- With federal support; more would do so
  - waiver authority
  - limited financial support
  - protections for currently-served vulnerable populations

### 3. Will state actions prevent or delay federal action?

- State action is not an 'experiment';  
*it is the first step to national reform*
- 47 million languish uninsured, while the well-meaning (and well-insured!) in this town debate which millennial reform best meets their exacting standards
- Successful state reform will demonstrate that reform is *possible*—and that national action is *necessary*

## 4. *Is support of state action good politics?*



### *To Democrats:*

- You have talked about achieving broader health insurance coverage for decades.
- Now you can do something to achieve it.
- Don't let a politically improbable ideal prevent you from making major progress.



### *To Republicans*

- The public is getting frightened; you cannot go into an election empty-handed
- Relying on states to advance accepted goals is a traditional Republican value
- Why cede health insurance to the Democrats?

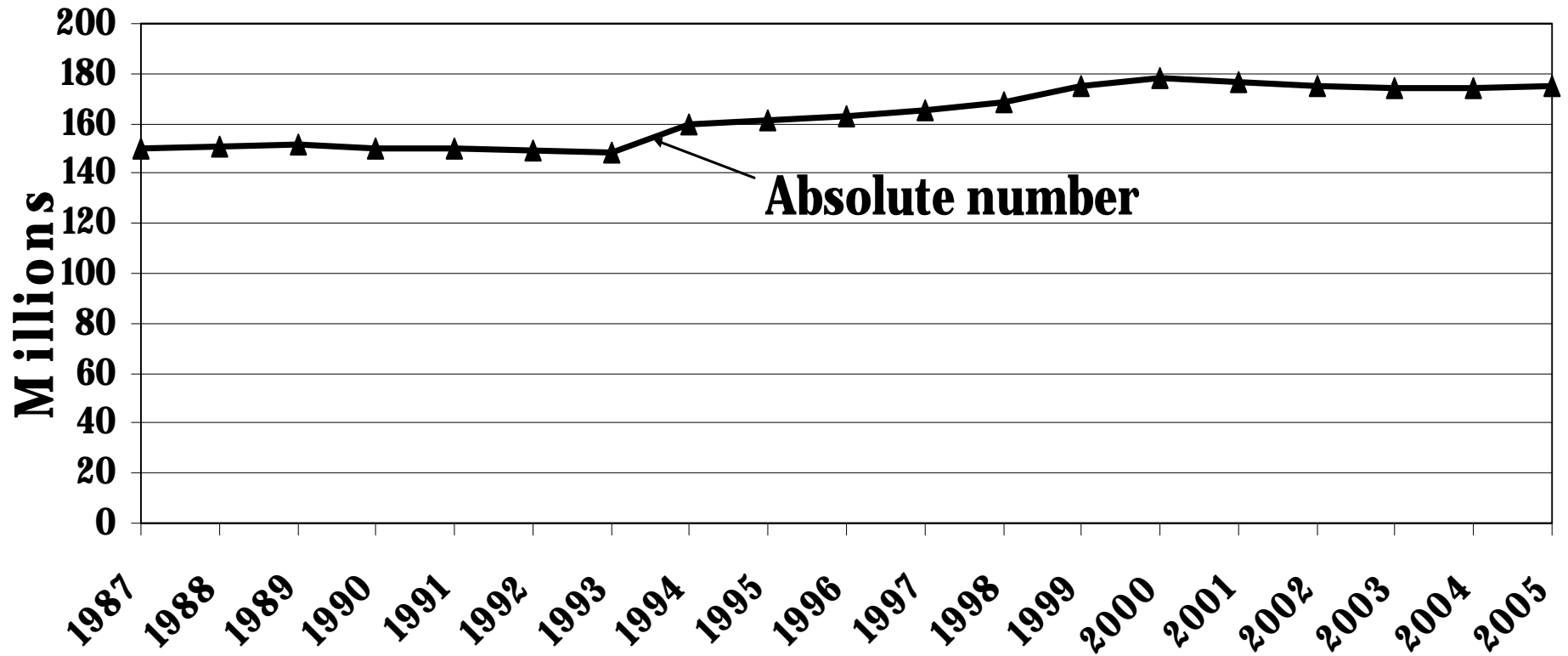
To those who think that, now, at last!

*'The moment for universal coverage has come!!'*



# To those who think that employment-based health insurance is coming unglued...

## Employer-Based Private Health Insurance Coverage, 1987-2005





# Employer-Based Private Health Insurance Coverage, 1987-2005

