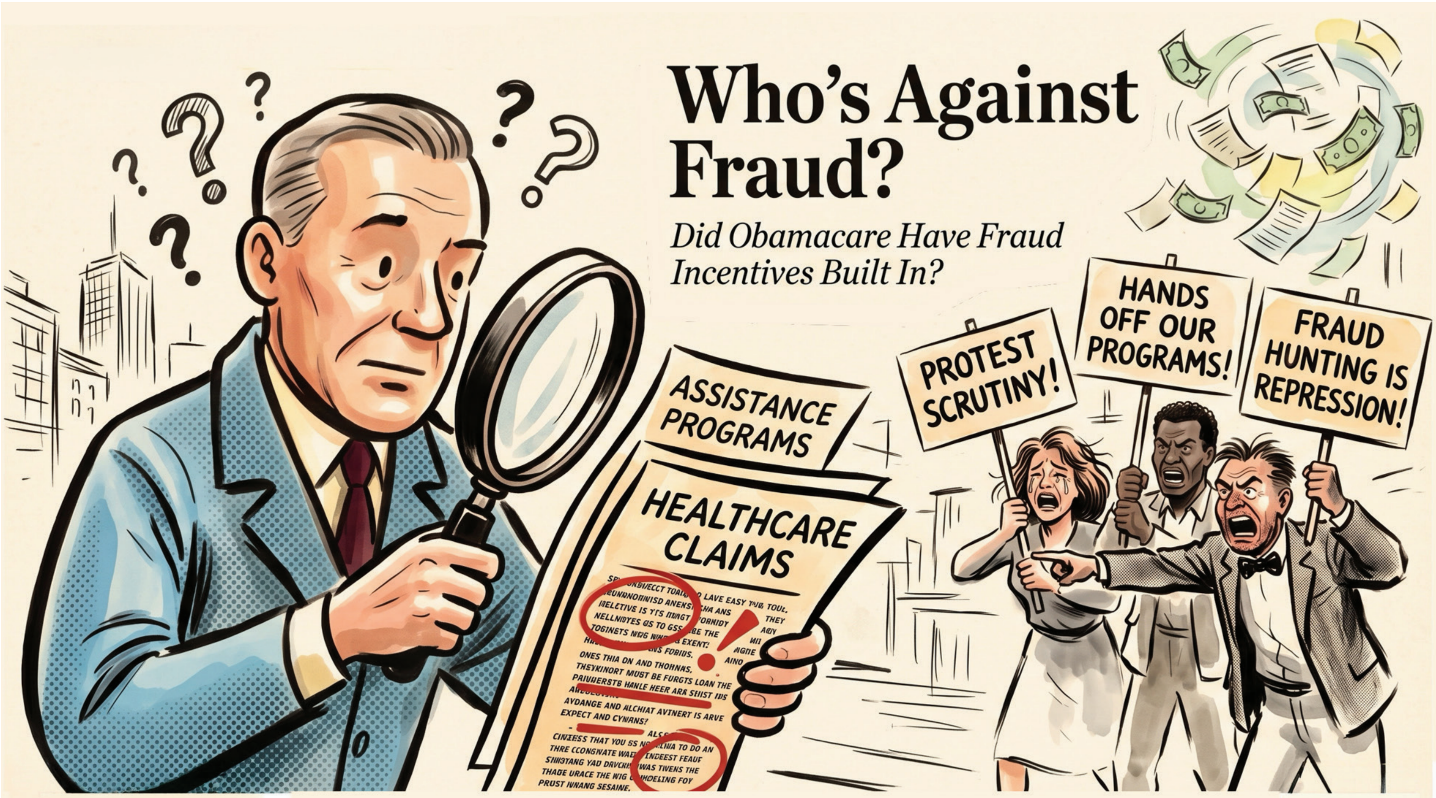
Common Sense

Paul Jacob



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While one might assume that the most enthusiastic proponents of extending the federal government's assistance programs would also be the most ardent fraud hunters — since fraud weakens the system they promote — one would be wrong. When individual assistance and healthcare fraud actually receive effective scrutiny, socialists and progressives can reliably found among the chief *protesters*.

This is something to watch for, especially in light of what Vice President J. D. Vance announced yesterday — that the federal government has removed hundreds of thousands of Obamacare enrollments created for people who either do not meet eligibility requirements or . . . don't exist.

"The action, initiated by the White House Task Force to Eliminate Fraud," explains *The Epoch Times*, "targets 760,000 accounts and will save taxpayers an estimated $2.2 billion, according to federal officials."

"We had a system in this country that rewarded brokers," said the vice president, "that made people rich for enrolling fake people in programs that are meant to ensure that our fellow citizens have healthcare. This was a scandal."

How did the task force determine ineligibility? These were the red flags: no payments received; no claims made.

Dr. Mehmet Oz, administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, shared the stage with Vance, saying that lax enforcement allowed brokers to enroll people sans income verification or even Social Security numbers.

Which is why the administration also removed hundreds of brokers and agents likely to have "knowingly enrolled people who did not qualify or did not exist," *The Epoch Times* clarifies.

Also imposed was a "six-month moratorium on the enrollment of new brokers."

Obamacare seems to have had incentives for fraud built in. It's a pity but perhaps not surprising that the advocates of such systems cannot be counted on to police those systems.

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.

Citizens in Charge Foundation | 11166 Fairfax Boulevard, Suite 500 #1366, Fairfax, VA 22030 | (703) 651-1159