

Cemeteries, pedophiles, and patent reform in the latest Regulation

How the Supreme Court Doomed the ACA

On June 28, 2012, the U.S. Supreme Court interpreted the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) not as imposing a strict mandate, but instead as levying a constitutionally valid tax for failure to purchase health insurance. In the new issue of *Regulation* magazine, Thomas A. Lambert of the University of Missouri Law School summarizes the justification underlying this ruling before considering what lies ahead for medical care in the United States. “Be warned: the picture isn’t pretty,” Lambert writes.

In considering the spate of recent reports on child molestation convictions, Kathryn Shelton and Richard B. McKenzie examine the unintended consequences behind one of the most recent movements in protective policymaking: restrictive care. “Prohibitions and limits on hugs can extend the harm done by pedophiles to literally millions of children, especially those who are disadvan-

tagged,” they write. The better road forward, Shelton and McKenzie continue, is for institutions to screen prospective staff members carefully and then monitor their contact with children.

Elsewhere in the issue, Timothy Sandefur explores the many workers who feel themselves silenced by the monopolistic power of politically privileged unions, while David E. Harrington and Jaret Treber find that state laws banning the combination of cemeteries and funeral homes harm consumers by reducing variety and raising costs.

Other contributors include Dan L. Burk on “Patent Reform in the United States: Lessons Learned,” as well as G. Stuart Mendenhall and Mark Schmidhofer on “Screening Tests for Terrorists.”

The Winter 2012–2013 issue also features reviews of books on the Transportation Security Administration and the fight for American security, the pitfalls of indus-



trial policy, and the arguments behind a progressive consumption tax. As always, it wraps up with Peter Van Doren’s survey of recent academic papers. ■

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Electricity, school choice, and economic freedom in the latest Cato Journal

The Role of China in the U.S. Debt Crisis

In the latest issue of the *Cato Journal*, Cato scholar James A. Dorn examines the impact of China’s tightly controlled capital markets on the United States. “While one cannot blame China for the U.S. debt crisis, which is due to profligate government spending, one can point to an unintended consequence of China’s policy of financial repression—expanding the size and scope of the U.S. government.” Dorn goes on to lay out the reforms that need to occur in both countries to achieve lasting peace and prosperity.

Thomas Grennes looks at the diminishing quality of fiscal institutions in the United States and Europe. While the United States has deviated from a fiscal policy that had been successful over a long period, the current European fiscal problem is related to violating more recent rules that followed the adoption of the euro in 1999. “Not all government borrowing is harmful,” Grennes continues, “but there is increasing evidence

that excessive government debt can decrease the rate of economic growth.”

Melissa Yeoh and Dean Stansel offer the first examination of the relationship between public expenditures and labor productivity that focuses on municipalities rather than states or nations. By examining the Edgewood Voucher Program in San Antonio, Texas, John D. Merrifield and Nathan L. Gray find that privately funded tuition vouchers have an immediate impact on economic development, including business formation, the property tax base, and housing growth and values.

Other contributors include George Selgin on “Incredible Commitments: Why the EMU Is Destroying Both Europe and Itself,” Paul Ballonoff on “Providing Access to Electricity for the Unserved: A Free-Market Solution,” and R. W. Hafer on “Economic Freedom and Financial Development: International Evidence.”



The Winter 2013 issue concludes with reviews of books on President Obama and the war on terror, the complexity of knowledge used in coordinating human actions, and the case for polarized politics. ■

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