

**3 ALL UNITS** Read the article and complete it with the words and phrases from the box.

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was going to ~~was to have~~ will attempt will be joining will be paying will extend will have spent

# Historic bill passed

US PRESIDENT Barack Obama last night secured a victory for social welfare in the United States that no other administration has managed to do.

The Clinton administration of 1992–2000 (0) ..... *was to have* ..... introduced healthcare reform, but failed in its aim. Obama cited this as a major objective when he took office, and last night the bill to introduce reform was passed by only seven votes.

The President (1) ..... sign the bill into law shortly, but Republicans (2) ..... prevent this, on the basis that the bill is unconstitutional. Moments before the vote, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said, referring to previous reforms, "We (3) ..... those who established Social Security, Medicare, and now, tonight, healthcare for all Americans."

Once the President's (4) ..... endorsement of the bill (5) ..... the new legislation (6) ..... healthcare to nearly all Americans. It will also (7) ..... end restrictive insurance practices such as refusing to cover people with pre-existing medical conditions. The bill contains some unpopular measures that Republican senators (8) ..... to change, and the estimated cost of \$940 billion over the next ten years is (9) ..... cause controversy in many quarters.



Public opinion on the bill is divided. Corinne Murphy, a single mother of three children with severe asthma, told our reporter, "This is just amazing. I haven't been able to get reasonable insurance cover until now because of my condition, and my healthcare costs have been crippling. By the end of this year, I (10) ..... over 15,000 dollars on emergency treatment. Now I (11) ..... insure the family at a fraction of the cost! I (12) ..... celebrate this evening." Larry Aristides, a Republican farmer, gave the opposite view: "You know, I thought Obama was great, and I (13) ..... vote for him until I heard what he was planning with healthcare, so I voted for McCain instead. This is just the tip of the iceberg – the government (14) ..... people to stay at home rather than work soon, like in most socialist states."

**'This is just the tip of the iceberg ...'**  
Larry Aristides