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Hutchison, Perry oppose 'ObamaCare'

By DAVE MONTGOMERY
dmontgomery@star-telegram.com

AUSTIN — Gov. Rick Perry and U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, though divided by a host of other issues, renewed their attacks Tuesday on President Barack Obama's healthcare overhaul amid clashing assessments of the plan's impact on Texans.

At his first news conference since Hutchison jumped into the governor's race against him, Perry said the plan would cost Texas taxpayers "tens of billions of dollars over the next 10 years without significantly improving care for Texans."

After Perry's news conference, Hutchison's campaign dispatched a release restating Hutchison's opposition to the president's initiative. The statement, by spokesman Joe Pounder, criticized Perry for "castigating" Hutchison and other Texas Republicans in Congress who are united in their opposition to the plan.

"While Rick Perry's busy grandstanding and playing following the leader, Kay Bailey Hutchison will be acting with her fellow Republicans to defeat Obama-care, and that's the leadership Texans deserve," Pounder said.

A report released at Perry's news conference, prepared by the Texas Public Policy Foundation, warned that the federal overhaul would erode the Texas economy and cost \$4,265 for every person in Texas, a total of \$103.8 billion.

But another Austin research organization, the Center for Public Policy Priorities, said the plan would expand the number of insured Texans and possibly boost the state's economy by bringing more federal funds to Texas.