

Dr Weisbuch criticizes article on Health Care Coverage in Wall Street Journal

The Wall Street Journal published an article entitled, “Which Democrat’s Health Plan Really, Truly Covers More People?” It missed the fact that the health plan proposed by Congressman Kucinich, would cover everyone. His single-payer proposal would eliminate the insurance travails recently described in your journal by John Carreyrou (Nov 15 & 30), assuring everyone full coverage.

No WSJ reader would deny corporate profits. But when profits conflict with the health of individuals, it is time to eliminate one to protect the other. Most western nations made this choice soon after WWII. Canada did so in the mid-1970s. We began the process in 1965 with Medicare, a single payer system, using state intermediaries to diminish government involvement, frequently the non-profit Blue Cross/Shield organizations. Medicare allowed retired elders to keep their doctor, access quality care with dignity, and not fear economic ruin from illness. Do other members of our society deserve less?

Annually, \$2.3 trillion is spent on health, \$500 billion of which is overhead and corporate profits. With their elimination, no additional money is required to assure universal protection. Expanding Medicare could achieve this objective. Its overhead is below 5%, a reimbursement system is in place, individual choice of provider would remain, medical decisions between doctor and patient are the rule, hospital admissions would all be paid, and drug costs could be negotiated. No uninsured parent need fear catastrophe when a child in pain cries at night. Everyone in; no one out.

Kucinich has it right.

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