

SINGLE PAYER HEALTHCARE NEEDED!

I strongly believe that the health care in the US should be single-payer. If we had put the bank bail-out monies into health care instead, we'd be getting out of the economic mess much sooner, much more cheaply, and we'd bring manufacturing jobs back to our shores all in one fell swoop.

Why do I think that? Simple, (except politically!) for the following reasons:

Over half the foreclosures in this country are due to medical bills and health problems. If we could help families with their medical costs and see that care was available to them, we wouldn't have to worry nearly so much about the banks. Then we could let the financial institutions take responsibility for their nefarious actions. They would have far fewer problems to deal with, and so would the taxpayers.

Second, our manufacturing sector is bogged down with health care costs that are rising on the profits of the health care and pharmaceutical companies. Taking the health care responsibilities off of businesses would be the subsidy all other major players in the business world get. Our country's businesses would again be competitive with those of other countries around the world. We wouldn't need to bail out the big three, though there are still huge problems facing them as the dinosaurs of the auto industry try to breathe new life into their companies.

In the same vein, taking the health care costs away from small businesses would immediately make them more competitive with large companies and provide much needed competition. Again action to move to a single-payer system in health-care would benefit taxpayers by reducing prices with increased competition.

Obama's plan - similar to the one in MA - would end the same way theirs is. The insurance companies would soon dump their high-risk clients onto the public, and the taxpayers would be stuck with a disproportionate balance of well and sick clients in the system. Too many clients receiving benefits, not enough healthy clients kicking in their share of the monies.

We need a single-payer system: one that is wide open for negotiation of prices with providers and pharmaceutical companies. We should be fighting hard for that system for ourselves and our children.

Judy McConoughey