

Your Health...

continued from page 1

mandated program.

c) Provide some subsidy to poorer individuals to help pay for insurance coverage.

d) Plan state/federal operated insurance coverage and same option for private coverage that individuals may select.

The consensus among health care proponents is that a single-payer program is desirable, based upon the national health care proposal of then First Lady, Hillary Clinton, in 1992-93.

In mid-September, presidential candidate Clinton unveiled a national health care proposal quite similar to her first attempt, but allowing for some personal/private insurance selection by individuals. Underlying all these proposals is the shadow of mandated health insurance and government-run health care—socialized medicine.

Wherever national health insurance has been tried, rationizing and long lines have followed. Single payer systems are now being abandoned by many of the countries that have tried them. Recently, Germany and Spain began selling state-owned hospitals to for-profit companies to raise money and increase efficiency, and in June the Canadian Supreme Court struck down two provincial laws in Quebec banning private health care and private insurance. Canadian Chief Justice Beverly McLachlin commented, "The evidence in this case shows that delays in the public health care system are widespread, and that, in some serious cases, patients die as a result of waiting lists for public health care."

This writer has had personal experience with public socialized health care in Great Britain, France, Canada and New Zealand, and can attest to delays, long waits and inefficiencies in all those public health care States. For instance, in New Zealand the local hospital had used up its antibiotic medicine quota for the month and refused to provide a prescription to obtain it at a private pharmacy. Red tape in the extreme.

Here in California, and the rest of the U.S., government-based health care proponents refuse to note the mistakes by others and act accordingly, but rather repeat failed or failing programs.

What will cure America's (and California's) health care problems is the free market. A patient can easily walk into a store and buy a bottle of aspirin, an over-the-counter drug, for less than \$10. To get



a prescription drug, the patient must get a doctors appointment, wait an hour at the doctor's office, and then wait in line at the pharmacy to get the drug. This process will probably cost an insurance company about \$100 and the patient about \$30 in co-payment. This is true even if the patient gets regular sinus injections and take the same drugs every year. If the patient could buy these repeat drugs over-the-counter, the change would save money and time for both patient and insurance companies.

Also, if people could buy their own health care and insurance pre-tax, they would have the incentive to shop around for the cheapest services. They would most likely be more interested than their employers are in the quality of the insurance. If patients could buy pharmaceuticals from whatever source they, not the government, deemed safe, competition would drive down drug costs. A free market would provide better health care services at competitive lower cost and save everyone's time and money.

We may only hope that the Governor's special session of the legislature results in another stalemate. Your health is at risk.

- Wally Reemelin
Excerpts, *The Freeman*

The real reason we can't have the Ten Commandments in a courthouse: You cannot post, "Thou Shalt Not Steal," "Thou Shalt Not Commit Adultery" and "Thou Shall Not Lie" in a building full of lawyers, judges and politicians. It creates a hostile work environment.



"I can't understand why anyone would get upset about opening up a can of worms."

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