

RUTLAND HERALD

Why not Medicare for all?

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The letter, “Time to change insurance rules” (Rutland Herald, March 8) promotes the selling of health insurance across state lines as a way to change the insurance rules and tame the scandalous rise of our health care costs.

It quoted a solution “promoted by the Cato Institute.” This was “for states to leave most health insurance regulations intact but allow the purchase of health insurance from other states regulated by that second state.” As someone who has experienced health insurance from across state lines, and almost died because of it, there could be absolutely no worse solution to our health care cost ills.

It should be noted here that the Cato Institute is not an impartial group. It is a libertarian think tank, founded and funded by the Koch Brothers, for the avowed purpose of foisting their political and social agendas upon us. If enacted, the study would produce a “national market for health insurance without federal regulations” that would be an unimaginable bonanza for the health insurance conglomerates and their Wall Street backers. It would not halt our unsustainable health cost growth, or enhance choice.

In fact, it would probably greatly restrict this choice. It did this to me, restricting my choices to the out-of-state insurer’s networks. The resulting chaos of this and the out-of-state company forever trying to deny the claims because they thought they could get away with it, nearly planted me into an early grave. There is a good argument for a national and rational system reaching across state lines. In fact, we already have this. It is called Medicare. Why not do as Bernie has suggested and make it “Medicare for all?” It is far more efficient, far less expensive, and provides a greater swath of choices across all fifty states than any private market in existence. Why not?