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Letters: Nuanced view of U.S. health care needed

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While very good medical care undeniably is available in the [USA](#), particularly for complex procedures, it is also undeniable that the American population suffers poorer health and far higher costs than much of the developed world. If opposing view writer Michael Tanner had a chronic disease such as diabetes and he compared the care he received in much of the U.S., he would perhaps write a very different piece ("[Opposing view: Despite flaws, U.S. health care the best](#)").

According to a 2010 report compiled by the [Commonwealth Fund](#), which supports research on health care issues: "Compared with six other nations — Australia, Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, [New Zealand](#), and the United Kingdom — the U.S. health care system ranks last or next-to-last on five dimensions of a high performance health system: quality, access, efficiency, equity, and healthy lives." The report also speaks to cost, which is far higher in the U.S.

Actually, the story about health care is quite complex, and making definitive statements about quality should be nuanced to reflect cultural and economic differences.

Tanner does all of us a disservice with a narrowly focused point of view that does not reflect the reality of the American health care system for too many Americans.