

What happened in Afghanistan is simply the inevitable result of the now-widespread philosophy that government must be stifled as much as possible, and that anything government does can be done better by people who want to make money out of it.

Todd Gibson, Denver

This letter was published in the Sept. 12 edition. For information on how to send a letter to the editor, [click here](#).

Health care reform and the public option: 5 letters
by DP Opinion on September 10, 2009

 12 Comments

Re: "Health care competition critical," Sept. 6 guest commentary by Rep. Mike Coffman.

In his guest commentary, Rep. Mike Coffman derides a proposed public option, emphasizing the need to "focus insurance-reform efforts on leveling the playing field by improving rules to increase competition among existing players." If that means more freedom for insurance companies, he dooms us to exploding health costs.

According to the American Medical Association's National Health Insurers Report Card, MadAsHellDoctors, and former Washington Post reporter T.R. Reid, this for-profit insurance delivery system costs approximately \$200 billion annually, or 20 percent of our health care expenditures for marketing and administration.

Rep. Coffman should promote health care delivery reform: one standard reimbursement form used by all insurance companies, Medicare, and Medicaid; one uniform procedure for processing claims; a speedy way to appeal; and a standard, mandatory health care policy, providing universal coverage by widening the risk pool.

No other industrialized country has this unethical hodgepodge that allows insurance companies to profit by delaying and denying needed health care.

Constance Steeples, Centennial

This letter was published in the Sept. 11 edition. For information on how to send a letter to the editor, [click here](#).

Re: "Left in the dust by Allard's straight talk," Sept. 10 Susan Greene column.

Susan Greene's column well articulates the inarticulate nature of our congressional delegation on health care. Politicians have to stay inarticulate and indecisive to continue to obtain funding by Big Money. I have decided that we no longer have a government; we have monied interest groups buying various pieces of the pie; the rest is theater. All these town forums and speeches are merely paid-for advertisements by special-interest groups.

Given that I must work for the next 10 years, just to cover my own health care costs — and I am healthy — one might say that I am a slave to my health insurance company. What party I belong to or how I vote has become entirely cosmetic, merely supporting the pretense that we elect politicians who govern.

Linda J. Drake, Denver

This letter was published in the Sept. 11 edition. For information on how to send a letter to the editor, [click here](#).

One consequence of the president's health care plan that has not received much attention in the press is the huge number of bureaucrats who would be required to implement it. These bureaucrats would reliably vote the Democratic ticket and would give a large amount of money to the Democratic Party through their unions, and this is the primary reason that the Democrats are pushing so hard for this and other government spending bills. They could eventually become unbeatable at the polls if the bureaucracy continues to grow, and then we would be on a path that leads straight to socialism.

One major virtue of capitalism is that it creates sources of power that are outside the government. Socialism seeks to bring all sources of power into the government, which, if successful, would eventually result in totalitarianism. While this may seem like a very remote possibility at this time, it could happen.

Robert J. Richardson, Littleton

This letter was published in the Sept. 11 edition. For information on how to send a letter to the editor, [click here](#).

Everyone wants lower health care costs, but no one is willing to talk about the only way to achieve significant savings: rationing.

Americans aren't ready to be told they can't have whatever medical treatments they want even when they don't need them.

That's the primary reason our health care costs are so high.

All this debate about saving money doesn't amount to a hill of beans without rationing. Want less, pay less.

Brad Bohland, Denver

This letter was published in the Sept. 11 edition. For information on how to send a letter to the editor, [click here](#).

I have read with interest the various anecdotes of "What Coloradans Are Saying" about health reform. I have so far not seen my views on the subject expressed.

I, along with many others, am totally opposed to any further federal government involvement in health care. While the system certainly needs reform, more federal involvement and control will undoubtedly make everything worse and will add greatly to the already enormous budget deficits created by Presidents Bush and Obama.

I urge those who want true reform of our health care system to consider the free market reforms proposed by The Cato Institute — read them at healthcare.cato.org — as a much better approach and one more in keeping with the American free enterprise system.

Cheryl Outerbridge, Lakewood

This letter was published in the Sept. 11 edition. For information on how to send a letter to the editor, [click here](#).

Governor, Human Services doing a good job
by DP Opinion on September 10, 2009

 **Be the first to comment!**

Gov. Bill Ritter and his Human Services staff recently made difficult reductions to balance the state budget. Human Services programs at the county level were largely spared because the governor understands how vital the role of county departments of human services is during an economic downturn, particularly one this severe. Food assistance cases alone are up 33 percent over last year.


As county directors, we particularly appreciate the leadership of Karen Beye, the executive director of the Colorado Department of Human Services. It is critical that we work closely together in challenging times like these. She and her staff have met with us to discuss the reductions and the best way to implement them. We look forward to collaborating and partnering with the state in assisting the citizens we serve.

Cheryl Ternes, Arvada

The writer is president of the Colorado County Social Services Directors Association.

This letter was published in the Sept. 11 edition. For information on how to send a letter to the editor, [click here](#).

Remembering Jeffrey Nickelson, a leader of local theater scene
by DP Opinion on September 10, 2009

 **Be the first to comment!**

Re: "Founder of Shadow Theatre dies," Sept. 6 news story.

I first met Jeffrey Nickelson 15 years ago. He was starting a new theater company and wanted his first production to be the world premier of "Innocent Thoughts," a dark comedy I had written about the relationship between African-Americans and Jews in America.

A few months later, on opening night, I waited in the old Ogden Street theater. No one showed. Then, just moments before curtain, three people ambled in. I couldn't endure this embarrassment, so I made for the door, but in the lobby I ran into Jeff. Not only was he playing the lead, he was also the usher. I couldn't escape, so I prepared for the worst. That night Jeff took the stage and gave a command performance. Two hours later, he received a standing ovation — from three people and 70 empty seats. It was magic. After the performance he greeted the audience, shook their hands and asked, with that signature broad smile, if they'd be kind enough to call three of their friends and tell them about the Shadow Theatre. Three weeks later there were no empty seats and the run was extended.

My last conversation with Jeff was just a few months ago. I had finished a new dark comedy called "Forgiving John Lennon," and I had written the lead role expressly for him. The play is about political correctness on college campuses and Jeff loved it but sadly said that he couldn't yet produce it at the new Shadow on Dayton Street because "original plays don't make money" and he had too many bills to pay. Then he warmly hugged me, but behind the smile there was a touch of melancholy.

I will miss Jeff's friendship. I will miss his energy. And I will always remember his smile.

William Missouri Downs, Laramie, Wyo.

This letter was published in the Sept. 11 edition. For information on how to send a letter to the editor, [click here](#).

Obama's speech on students' responsibility: 5 letters
by DP Opinion on September 10, 2009

 **1 Comment**

The President gave a speech to America's school children urging them to work hard, stay in school, and be responsible. It is an important, straightforward message that President Reagan and the first President Bush also presented to our country's schoolchildren.

My child's school denied her the opportunity to hear President Obama. I had to take the morning off of work and my child had to miss school so she could stay home and view the speech.

The angry voices of the few, the loud, and the paranoid were allowed to reign. Irrational fear has raised its ugly head at different points in our history — the Salem Witch Trials and McCarthyism come to mind. But fear is not an American value; hope, responsibility and hard work are American values — the very things the president was speaking about.

Lenore Hawley, Centennial

This letter was published in the Sept. 10 edition. For information on how to send a letter to the editor, [click here](#).

It is poor judgment for President Obama to ask America's public schools to deliver his "back to school" speech. Any speech by the president is a political address. He is, in fact, our political leader. And watching a political address in this country has always been optional. Even if the president's message is to support good study and work ethics, it is my job as a parent to raise, lead and motivate