

To the editor:

In your Saturday editorial, "Health insurance 'reform,'" you attack much-needed health care reform with biased opinion and tired lies. In fact, according to a SurveyUSA poll of Aug. 20, fully 76 percent of Americans favor a choice between private medical insurance and a government run option, and rightly so. These Americans realize that those who can afford medical insurance at all are paying exorbitant premiums for questionable coverage, while the company CEOs are pocketing, on average, more than \$10 million yearly.

You posted a couple of quotes from Michael Cannon, wherein he prognosticates the number of currently insured people who might leave their employer-based insurance in favor of a public plan. These numbers vary widely depending the source, but the crux of his "anti" argument is that people won't be paying the private insurers anymore, which is bad for profits. The Cato Institute, for whom he writes, is a pro-business, anti-tax think tank.

The Lewin Group is also quoted in your piece as stating 'millions would be involuntarily ousted from their current health plans.' It has been stated repeatedly that if people like their current health plans, they could keep them. Also, let's note that the Lewin Group is a subsidiary of UnitedHealthGroup, one of the largest health insurers in the country.

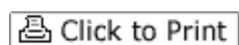
All the solutions put forth by Mr. Cannon end up putting more money into these insurance companies, so their bean counters can do what they do now: raise premiums and cancel policies of the sick.

It is easy for Americans to discover who is behind these lies surrounding health care reform. Just look for who has the most money to lose. The current players in the market, the health insurance companies, are spending millions to stop any change, because they are getting rich off the current system. The only change they will tolerate is that which enhances their monopoly.

The only guarantee Americans have to lower health costs is choice. And when the government offers that choice, it will bring costs down for everyone. We will no longer be fleeced by these insurance companies.

Dan Wesley

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