

[REDACTED]
Berkeley 94707

Re: Health Care Reform

1/1/94

C-SPAN anchor people:

When there is a discussion of Health Care reform, please don't let panelists get away with ignoring the possibility of a One-Payer plan or claiming that its cost is unknown (see the enclosed!).

Plans similar to that in Canada have been in effect for decades in various European countries and their cost, per capita or in terms of national GP, is known.

While a One-Payer plan would eliminate the unearned profits taken out of the national health care budget by stockholders of insurance companies, it would not burden employers (especially small ones) with additional expenses for the care of their employees - this is something business should appreciate! It is hard to understand why this aspect of a One-Payer plan is never being discussed?

Some politicians seem to take the position that an overhaul of the current US Health Care system may not be needed at all - after all, we have the best health care in the world; but do we? Not when one compares infant mortality rates and other indices of "health" with those of other Western countries.

People without health insurance are "taken care of" by Emergency Services at great inconvenience and enormous cost to the rest of us. Those who do have insurance may still have to use emergency services on weekends, when their regular physicians are off duty; it then can and does happen that they have to wait around for hours to have a trivial injury fixed and will be presented with a bill of \$ 600-800 for it! In contrast, when an American tourist in England, Germany or France (where they have national health plans) requires emergency care, it will be for free! As you can see, there is more to a health care discussion than one ever gets from the media.

Sincerely yours,
[REDACTED]

encl.

cc: Alice Rivlin, (Clinton) Deputy Budget Director

Cheaper health care available, study says

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SF EXAM.

12/17/93

THIS MEANS YOU!



Christmas 1993

Single-payer system
could save up to
\$175 billion a year,
Congress' Budget
Office reports

By Vic Ostrowdzki
EXAMINER WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — The United States could provide medical care for everyone — including 39 million uninsured Americans — and save as much as \$175 billion a year by adopting a Canadian-style "single-payer" health care system, says the Congressional Budget Office.

The budget office concluded that a Canadian-style system could operate with administrative costs of about 3.5 percent — compared with current administrative costs in the private sector of 17 percent. The resulting savings, the budget office predicted, would amount to \$50 billion to \$100 billion a year.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Dear legislator:

Do you really want to waste all that enormous overhead on profits for insurance companies (and unearned income for their stockholders)? A One-Payer Health Plan would put a stop to this practice and apply this money for coverage of people who are now uninsured, or uninsurable. The whole country would gain by it! Such a system was not too "radical" for Chancellor Bismarck who instituted it in 19th century Germany. Let's progress beyond 18th century America and catch up with other Western countries! (Give a Christmas present to the American people, rather than accepting one from the current Health industry.)

Berkeley 94707

[REDACTED]
Berkeley 94707



Anchor people and discussion leaders at
C-SPAN
400 N. Capitol Street NW, Ste. 650
Washington, DC 20001

20001-1550 12

