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Health care bill not the answer

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In response to Rep. Frank Pallone Jr.'s Feb. 7 op-ed, "Doing nothing on health reform not an option," I agree our health care system must be revamped. But I disagree that the solution is to move forward with the massive health care bill now sitting before Congress.

The primary problem with the bill is that it focuses on using government subsidies to pay for health insurance policies. This proposed legislation — while very expensive — does not address the root problem of our spiraling health care costs. As president-elect of the New Jersey Association of Health Underwriters, I have advocated for Congress to scrub waste from the system before it can consider adding new layers of bureaucracy and taxpayer expense. For any meaningful reform, Congress can save billions by combating Medicare fraud, focusing on preventative care and requiring electronic medical records systems.

Once we rid the system of the waste, we can then build a smart, streamlined system that serves both the taxpayer and the patient. I urge Congress to focus its efforts on fixing what is broken.

Desmond X. Slattery

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