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We can fix current health-care system

JULY 26, 2009

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As a member of the New Jersey Association of Health Underwriters, I was very troubled to learn last week about [the House of Representatives](#)' proposal to move forward with a government-run health-care option.

While some in the federal government are lauding this option as a way for businesses and families to remove themselves from the crushing burden of [health care](#) costs, I truly believe that the opposite will happen.

If the public option is passed by Congress, it will function in much of the same way as the [Medicare](#) system does. And this system truly is broken, as Medicare underpayments to doctors and hospitals are ultimately passed onto employers and individuals through higher premiums.

A new government-run program would exacerbate the underfunding of providers, increase individual and family premiums by more than \$526 per year and leave fewer people with private coverage to offset this growing cost-shift.

Not only that, but many Medicare beneficiaries today have trouble locating a primary care physician who will accept new Medicare patients. Enrollees in the government-run health plan would experience similar difficulties in locating a participating physician who is taking on new patients or long wait times before a patient could visit a doctor.

Let's work to fix our current health-care system, rather than introduce this unnecessary and expensive layer of government.

LEN SHERMAN
 Florham Park

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