

MORE GOVERNMENT WON'T HELP

By Congressman Ron Paul

Given by the Honorable Ron Paul in a speech before the United States House of Representatives, Sept 23, 2009:

Government has been mismanaging medical care for more than 45 years; for every problem it has created, it has responded by exponentially expanding the role of government. Points to consider:

- No one has a right to medical care. If one assumes such a right, it endorses the notion that some individuals have a right to someone else's life and property. This totally contradicts the principles of liberty.
- If medical care is provided by government, this can only be achieved by an authoritarian government unconcerned about the rights of the individual. Economic fallacies accepted for more than 100 years in the US have deceived policy makers into believing that quality medical care can only be achieved by government force, taxation, regulations, and bowing to a system of special interests that creates a system of corporatism.
- More dollars into any monopoly run by government never increases quality but it always results in higher costs and prices.
- Government does have an important role to play in facilitating the delivery of all goods and services in an ethical and efficient manner.
- First, government should do no harm. It should get out of the way and repeal all the laws that have contributed to the mess we have.
- The costs are obviously too high but in solving this problem one cannot ignore the debasement of the currency as a major factor.
- Bureaucrats and other third parties must never be allowed to interfere in the doctor/patient relationship.
- The tax code, including the ERISA laws, must be changed to give everyone equal treatment by allowing a 100% tax credit for all medical expenses.
- Laws dealing with bad outcomes and prohibiting doctors from entering into voluntary agreements with their patients must be repealed. Tort laws play a significant role in pushing costs higher, prompting unnecessary treatment and excessive testing. Patients deserve the compensation; the attorneys do not.
- Insurance sales should be legalized nationally across state lines to increase competition among the insurance companies.
- Long-term insurance policies should be available to young people similar to term-life insurances that offer fixed prices for long periods of time.
- The principle of insurance should be remembered. Its purpose in a free market is to measure risk, not to be used synonymously with social welfare programs. Any program that provides for first-dollar payment is no longer insurance. This would be similar to giving coverage for gasoline and repair bills to those who buy car insurance or providing food insurance for people to go to the grocery store. Obviously, that could not work.
- The cozy relationship between organized medicine & government must be reversed. Early on, medical insurance was promoted by the medical community in order to boost reimbursements to doctors & hospitals. That partnership has morphed into the government/insurance industry still being promoted by the current administration.
- Threatening individuals with huge fines by forcing them to buy insurance is a boon to the insurance companies.
- There must be more competition for individuals entering into the medical field. Licensing strictly limits the number of individuals who can provide patient care. A lot of problems were created in the 20th Century as a consequence of the Flexner Report (1910), which was financed by the Carnegie Foundation and strongly supported by the AMA. Many medical schools were closed and the number of doctors was drastically reduced. The motivation was to close down medical schools that catered to women, minorities, and especially homeopathy. We continue to suffer from these changes, which were designed to protect physician's income & promote allopathic medicine over the more natural cures and prevention of homeopathic medicine.
- We must remove any obstacles for people seeking holistic and nutritional alternatives to current medical care. We must remove the threat of further regulations pushed by the drug companies now working worldwide to limit these alternatives.

True competition in the delivery of medical care is what is needed, not more government meddling. 