
Conclusion

Even if one recognizes the unsurpassed excellence of medical care that has been widely available in the United States, reforms are urgent, particularly in light of the deleterious impacts of Obamacare. Costs are high and escalating; government expenditures will soon overwhelm the entire federal budget in the absence of change. This situation causes great concern about the sustainability of access to medical care and its excellence for Americans in the long term. Reforms to the system are essential—the debate is about what specific reforms are appropriate to fix the inadequacies and reduce the cost without jeopardizing its excellence and without stifling innovation.

Paradoxically, as Obamacare is doubling down on government authority over health care, the solution in those countries with the longest experience of nationalized health care, from Britain to Denmark to Sweden, is increasingly to shift patients toward private health care to remedy their failed systems.¹ Likewise, Europeans with means or power are increasingly circumventing their centralized health systems. Private insurance in the European Union has grown by more than 50 percent in the past decade.² In reaction to their unconscionable waits for care,³ about 11 percent of Britons hold private health insurance, including almost two-thirds who earn more than \$78,700—even though they are already paying taxes to the tune of £114 billion (\$175 billion) for their “free” National Health Service insurance⁴ and despite the government’s sharp rise in an insurance premium tax to thwart private insurance.⁵ In Sweden, despite the fact that an average family already pays nearly \$20,000 annually in taxes toward health care, almost

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600,000 Swedes now use private insurance, a number that has increased by 67 percent over the last five years.⁶ Unless Obamacare is drastically altered, America's health care will also become even more divided. If sustained, it will be driven toward two parallel systems with even more inequality; as in the United Kingdom and elsewhere, only the lower and middle classes in America will suffer the full harm of Obamacare.

As outlined herein, specific reforms that would improve the availability for all Americans to high-quality care and would reduce costs without damaging the excellence of America's medical care are within reach. Using specific incentives and detailed proposals, the plan I suggest enhances the availability and affordability of twenty-first-century medical care and ensures continued health care innovation. These reforms promise to be disruptive and drive important efficiencies into health care. Once the reforms are fully implemented, the quality of health care will improve, and total national health spending will substantially decrease, generating significant savings and increased economic activity into other areas of the US economy. Modernizing US health care should center on expanding high-deductible insurance coverage and health savings accounts. These fundamental reforms expand the purchasing power of consumers, the necessary basis for enhancing market competition that will ultimately lead to better value and more consumer choices. And voters overwhelmingly support such reforms. In answer to the question, "What would do more to reduce health care costs—more free market competition between insurance companies or more government regulation?" 62 percent of voters chose more free market competition, and only 26 percent chose more regulation.⁷ A vast majority of Americans—a full 73 percent—say they have a right to choose between health insurance plans that cost more and cover just about all medical procedures versus other plans that cost less while covering only major medical procedures (only 12 percent are opposed).⁸ An even greater majority, 85 percent to only 7 percent, say individuals should have

the right to choose between health plans that have higher deductibles and lower premiums versus plans with lower deductibles and higher premiums. It is the responsibility of government leaders to work to create health reforms that reflect these important principles held by the American people.