

Ryan's health plan is a pipe dream

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The commentary published in the Aug. 3 *Gazette-Times* by Sally Pipes about reforming health care deserves a response.

Pipes raises valid concerns about the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare), and she suggests that speaker Paul Ryan has a suitable alternative.

Ryan's plan proposes to "...slash premiums by, among other things, getting rid of Obamacare's costly essential health benefit mandates," you know, those pesky benefits like:

- Ambulatory patient services (outpatient care).
- Emergency services (trips to the emergency room).
- Hospitalization (treatment in the hospital for inpatient care).
- Maternity and newborn care.
- Mental health services and addiction treatment.
- Prescription drugs.
- Rehabilitative services and devices.
- Laboratory services.
- Preventive services, wellness services, and chronic disease treatment.
- Pediatric services.

Rep. Ryan proposes that none of us should have to pay for these services if we're not sure we'll ever need them. Hmmm ... how well does his crystal ball work? And although he proposes to continue the Obamacare protection of people with pre-existing conditions, his plan actually punishes them by placing them into a high-risk pool, which to date has made premiums unaffordable, with or without subsidies. He also proposes that people use health savings accounts to fund their health care costs. But people with incomes below the median don't benefit much from these plans.

Ryan's plan is a Pipe's dream. View Sally's testimony before a U.S. Senate Committee [HERE](#)

We need a single-payer plan: better care for more people at lower cost — focused on health, not the "market."