

Medicare for All would save money

Letter to the Eugene *Register Guard*

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See last Saturday RG Business Section U.S. health care spending grew by 5.8% in 2015. It is now up to \$ 3.2 trillion which is \$9,990 per person per year, more than double of any other nation in the world. This is health inflation on steroids. The 3 main drivers are Big Health Insurance administrative costs including Millions to CEO's, Big PHARMA, and Medical Equipment. The Feds are paying 29%; households are paying 28%, business is only paying 20%, and state and local governments are paying 17%. That means people are paying more for healthcare than businesses.

Spending increased 7.2% for health insurance, Medicaid up 9.7%. Both of these are driven by the ACA by covering millions of more people. Pharmaceuticals increased by 9%. But the one category that increased the less, despite 10,000 baby boomers retiring a day was Medicare was only 4.5%. This is the oldest and costliest portion of the health care pool, and yet the program maintains year after year the less cost increases. It can be improved but it is working.

Instead of wasting so much money on health insurance companies why do we revisit Medicare law and drop the 65 year old eligibility requirement.

We could bargain Big PHARMA for lower prices. We could set a standard cost for medical equipment, establish standard medical costs throughout the industry and start giving better care to more people for less money.

If you agree with me go to www.hcao.org on the web.