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Price a bad pick for Trump Cabinet

Letter to Corvallis Gazette-Times

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January 5, 2017

In politics, we often hope that a man's bite may not be as hard as his bark. But it would be foolish to ignore the record that defines a man's professional career. President-elect Trump has chosen Rep. Tom Price, a former orthopedic surgeon, as his nominee for secretary of health and human services.

Here are examples of some issues Rep. Price has voted against: the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act, which improved coverage for mental health in private insurance; regulating tobacco as a drug; expansion of the state Children's Health Insurance Program; Violence Against Women Act; legislation prohibiting job discrimination on the basis of gender identity; stem cell research; Cancer Moonshot Act; reforms of provider payment based on quality performance and value of care services delivered; funding for global fight against AIDS/TB/malaria.

These are some of the things Rep. Price has voted for: making armor-piercing bullets more accessible to the general public; allowing hospitals to turn away Medicare/Medicaid patients seeking care if they could not afford co-pays; physician interest groups holding veto power over the release of comparative effectiveness research findings.

A New England Journal of Medicine editorial lamented that Price's record demonstrates a much greater concern for the economic well-being of physicians than for patient care. As individuals, we may not be able to affect the direction of the Trump administration. But together we can fight to keep health care accessible and affordable for all, at least in Oregon. Please join the Mid-Valley Health Care Advocates.