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The answer: Medicare for all

Letter to *The Register Guard*

by Patricia Bitner, Eugene

February 15, 2017

Kudos to Robin Morris for the excellent letter describing the dilemma facing Pain Consultants of Oregon in continuing to provide for its chronic pain care patients amid continuing rising costs associated with insurance company dictates (“Give power back to the physicians,” Feb. 4). Pain Consultants of Oregon closed its doors when it could no longer exist under the present insurance reimbursement system. And its chronic pain patients must seek another source of care. Good luck.

Insurance companies are running the show; they “dictate which doctor can be seen, how much doctors are reimbursed, how much time doctors meet with patients and which medications will be insured,” as Morris sums it up.

How can we change this? A publicly supported system which includes all residents of Oregon and the United States, generally known as single payer, is the obvious answer. In short, Medicare for all.

Health Care for All-Oregon is hosting a showing of the film “Now is the Time” at noon this Sunday at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 13th Avenue and Chambers Street in Eugene. Meet the filmmakers and learn more about the alternative health care system already in place in the rest of the industrialized world. Admission is free. Visit Health Care for All-Oregon at hcao.org.