

## **Single-payer system the answer**

MARCH 13, 2017

Republicans have offered a proposal to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare). Medicaid would not be decreased as quickly as feared — only minor reductions before the 2020 election, for obvious reasons. Younger and slightly wealthier middle-class individuals purchasing insurance will benefit at the expense of those older and slightly poorer.

There is a huge immediate giveaway to the rich — tens of billions of dollars less each year in Medicare taxes on the wealthiest, and a tax decrease for health insurance CEOs.

President Trump's stated goal was a "terrific" health care plan — take care of everyone and lower costs. There is a plan that would meet these goals, a plan that has the support of a majority of Americans — improved Medicare for all, a single-payer, universal, affordable, equitable plan. This is similar to what exists in all other economically advanced countries. All of these systems spend much less per person, get better results and have greater public satisfaction.

Conservative hero Friedrich Hayek writes, "Where it is impossible to create the conditions necessary to make competition effective, we should resort to other methods of guiding economic activity." For supply and demand to work, there must be a price above which a wise consumer will be better off not buying. How will the seriously ill or injured make that choice?

Health care cannot successfully be treated as a market commodity. Recognizing this, Health Care for All Oregon is working toward a better ACA replacement — improved Medicare for all.

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