

<http://registerguard.com/rg/opinion/35448378-78/single-payer-would-cut-costs-in-half.html.csp>

## **Single-payer would cut costs in half**

Letter to the *Register Guard*

by Dr. Rick Staggenborg, Roseburg

President, Health Care for All Oregon: Douglas County

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Arch-conservative Charles Krauthammer did a commendable job laying out much of the argument for a single-payer health care system in his March 31 column. After conceding the emerging bipartisan consensus that health care is a human right, he argues that the easiest way to replace the “Rube Golberg wreckage” of an increasingly expensive Obamacare system is to “go for the simplicity and universality of Medicare-for-all.”

Despite achieving this insight, Krauthammer clings to the illusion that health care follows free-market economics, a notion that is easily refuted. After all, the consumer rarely has a choice of providers in an emergency, and there are few options for routine care in many markets. What, then, is the motive for keeping costs down in a profit-driven system?

Because of this ideological blindness, he fails to recognize that in addition to (and in large part due to) its simplicity, single payer is also the most fiscally conservative option. Experience in the many places it has been tried has shown that it can ensure universal, comprehensive and high-quality health care at about half the cost per capita of the fragmented U.S. system that still leaves tens of millions out.

Now that single payer has become an acceptable topic in the mainstream media, perhaps Democrats will be willing to ditch their Wall Street patrons and listen to the vast majority of their constituents, who support single payer when they understand what it is.