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Health care is a human right

Letters In The Editor's Mailbag: *Register Guard*

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In 1846, at the height of the potato famine as thousands of poor Irish died of starvation while at the same time their English overlords exported tons of food out of Ireland, Charles Trevelyan, the English nobleman in charge of the crisis, wrote: "It forms no part of the functions of government to provide supplies of food."

Moreover, the English used the famine as a solution to the "Irish problem" — Trevelyan saw mass starvation as "an effective mechanism for reducing surplus population." For his service during the famine, Trevelyan was knighted.

We've come a long way since then. We recognize the basics for life as a human right. Nevertheless, while we feed, clothe, shelter, educate, provide clean air and water, protect and secure all our people, we do not recognize health care as a right. Health care in America is a for-profit industry.

It is time we joined Austria, Belarus, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine and the United Kingdom to provide universal health care to all. Let's bury Baronet Trevelyan forever.