

Letter To Editor  
6/15/17

To the editor of *Newport NewsTimes*:

Below is a letter that I just wrote to our Representative Kurt Schrader. I would hope that my thoughts could also be published in the *NewsTimes*.

Jerry Robbins MD, Newport

Dear Mr. Schrader,

Thank you so much for your letter of 4/6/17 in response to my initial email to you in regards to urging your support for HR 676, the bill for single-payer health care.

After reading over this bill in more detail, I agree that the funding mechanism is indeed vague. I appreciate your concern about funding, but I would point out that every other first-world country has some sort of universal health care system, and each of those systems cost much less per capita than the non-system in this country. I have read a more detailed proposal about funding single-payer health care written in 2013 by the Massachusetts economist, Gerald Friedman. I believe that his is one possible way to accomplish the goal of universal health coverage, a goal that we seem to both share.

My idea/goal is that a universal health plan would replace commercial insurance, Medicaid, Medicare, auto insurance, the VA system, worker's comp; "if you are sick or injured you will be cared for". Currently it seems that 12 Republican Senators, none of whom are health care economists, believe that they can create new health care policy IN SECRET and then pass the legislation with no discussion. Please resist this ignominy.

Oregon's system of Coordinated Care Organizations is an important experiment in changing the mechanism of health care delivery, but this is a different topic for discussion.

Please reconsider supporting HR 676. Health care for all is an important goal.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.