

 **TODAY'S "SHORT TOPIC"**
**UNIVERSAL
HEALTHCARE:
IT'S NOT THE ANSWER
TO RISING PRICES!**



By Stephen L. Bakke  December 17, 2015

Here's what provoked me:

A letter proclaimed ObamaCare to be a failure due to poor enrollment and skyrocketing costs. The writer concluded that the only way to solve these problems would be implementing universal healthcare. What? GOOD GRIEF! That would probably raise costs, NOT reduce them!

Here's my response:

Universal Healthcare: It's Not the Answer to Rising Prices!

Re: "Enrollment experience confirms that system is not sustainable" on 12-16-15, Gary Staples makes these points:

- Inadequate enrollment results confirm that the system is not sustainable.
- Those with average or above income receive no subsidies.
- Those without subsidies have and will experience unprecedented premium increases.
- "We all know that the only way to gain control over this runaway train is.....universal health care..."

I ask Mr. Staples: How will universal healthcare have any effect on the total cost to society under ObamaCare? It won't – probably the contrary! I've always supported reform of the healthcare payment system, and it was obvious from the start that ObamaCare would be a huge mistake! Changes could have been made to our former system that would have provided important improvements, but which would exploit a true marketplace and enjoy the efficiency of having very little bureaucracy. Here's a summary:

- Legislatively guaranteed insurability – left up to the marketplace to price the products – a straightforward high risk pool would be employed.
- Insurance companies would underwrite only major medical/catastrophic coverage.
- Routine, first dollar coverage would be accomplished through health savings accounts (HSAs).
- The desired relationship between personal income and healthcare costs would be achieved through the tax system. Deductibility of major medical coverage and HSA costs would vary based on income, ranging from partially deductible to refundable tax credits.
- Individuals/families would own the policies, thereby guaranteeing portability, and would individually make spending decisions.

Let's hope we have a chance to institute the right kind of healthcare reform!