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 **TODAY'S "SHORT TOPIC"**
FREE-MARKET HEALTH CARE SYSTEM, YES!
GOVERNMENT CONTROL AND RATIONING, NO!



By Stephen L. Bakke  May 26, 2016

Here's what provoked me:

A sequence of commentaries featured opposing views about the relative value of spending health care dollars on the elderly. This set me off on a subject I hadn't explored for a few years. True rationing of health care is here – it snuck up on us I guess. So I dug back into my website for some old material and came up with this response.

Here's my response:

Free-Market Health Care System, YES! Government Control and Rationing, NO!

Don Wright makes a personal case for the value of life stating: "...life, even with a serious illness...is a marathon worth running" ("Don't jeopardize my health to fix health care," May 24). He was reacting to a cost/benefit study of medical treatments. Age is one variable in the study which is intended to assist making insurance coverage decisions.

James Brandt opposes Wright's arguments by reminding us of the government's limited health care resources ("Resources are finite, so cost-benefit is the reality," May 26). He emphasizes the greater benefit of using limited dollars to treat a 20 year-old compared to treating an 80 year-old.

ObamaCare opponents were laughed at when warning against rationing health services, and making dramatic references like "death panels" and "pulling grandma's plug." Gradually, hints of cost/benefit rationing have become commonplace. Obama questioned whether his grandmother should have been given a knee replacement soon before dying. Senator Daschle, and presidential advisors Dr. Ezekiel Emanuel and Dr. David Blumenthal, gave subtle indications they understood arguments favoring treatment of one demographic over another. Emanuel wrote: "By 75, creativity, originality, and productivity are pretty much gone for the vast, vast majority of us."

My friends, I don't want my health decisions and funds controlled by the government! A free-market health system has flaws, but without it and our historic expectation of, willingness to pay for, and insistence upon "medical miracles," we wouldn't have today's "65 year-olds" being like the "50 year-olds" of a few decades ago.

Insist on free-market health care!