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SINGLE-PAYER – A BUSINESS ADVANTAGE? YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!



By Stephen L. Bakke  September 28, 2017

Here's what provoked me:

A "featured" letter writer in the Minneapolis StarTribune described the advantages of a "single-payer" healthcare system for businesses. It was clear he thought all those costs would disappear. So I must ask, "where did they go?" Read on

Here's my response:

Single-payer – A Business Advantage? You Can't Be Serious!

A letter, titled "Single-payer makes business sense," published on September 28 stated: "A single-payer health system (for example, Medicare for all) would clearly enhance the competitiveness of American business. It would relieve businesses of the \$10,000 to \$20,000 per year per employee cost of health care." This logic is extended to assume major costs will be saved, leaving more money to hire employees and making the company more competitive in a price sensitive

I ask the writer: "Do you think healthcare costs would just disappear?" I remind the writer: "Cost sharing or cost redistribution does not save costs!" And since the writer referred to Medicare as an example of his ideal, I must point out: "Who pays for Medicare? The answer is 'businesses and individuals,' so those costs will come right back home to roost anyway."

There will be neither cost savings nor competitive advantage. On such pipe dreams are poor laws built.