

If you don't regularly receive my reports, request a free subscription at steve_bakke@comcast.net !
Follow me on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/@BakkeSteve> and receive links to my posts and more!
Visit my website at <http://www.myslantonthings.com> !

HEALTHCARE COVERAGE: COULD IT REALLY BE THIS SIMPLE?



By Stephen L. Bakke  December 29, 2017

Here's what provoked me:

I've been wondering if we might be over-complicating solutions to healthcare coverage and payment reform. It will help to examine where we are with the deficient Obamacare system, and learn from those mistakes, while working to accomplish the original goals of much needed reform. Let's keep it simple!

Here's my response:

Healthcare Coverage: Could It Really Be This Simple?

It's soon time to turn our attention to reforming Obamacare – once again. Contrary to Obamacare's assurances, healthcare costs skyrocketed, tens of millions were left uninsured, and several million more chose to pay the individual mandate tax rather than buy coverage. Maybe we've over-complicating the solution.

Let's recall where we were before Obamacare. Our biggest priority was to make healthcare available for all. One main goal was to help people obtain coverage who couldn't otherwise afford it, or were blocked by preexisting conditions or benefit limitations. We wanted everyone to be covered.

We should be true to the original goal of providing healthcare to those who couldn't afford it. Obamacare's convoluted solution ended up putting most new enrollees on Medicaid – a system that was already in place. Let's learn from that, back up, and simply promote and financially support new Medicaid signups – but without Obamacare's other “bells and whistles” – and complications.

Some level of subsidy is inevitable. Other people's financial assistance needs could be handled through tax favored health savings accounts and a taxpayer funded high risk underwriting program.

Let people choose coverage they need, and own their insurance contract. Then legislate limited provisions such as guaranteed insurability and traditional underwriting.

Could it really be this simple? Of course not, but it's worth thinking about.