

Health Care's Like a Box of Chocolates - by Jake Towne, 2010 Candidate for U.S. House, PA-15 TowneForCongress.com

Imagine for a moment you own a candy store. You work hard to find all the best suppliers and employees and to make your prices competitive so you can increase the size of your business and profit.

However, several people eat way too much chocolate and start getting health problems. After several lawsuits, your candy store is faced with two choices: either increase your prices, or go out of business. You choose to increase the cost of your chocolate.

The government decides that you are overcharging people for chocolate. They decide that the best thing to do is to open a new candy store which will guarantee cheaper prices. They lower their prices to an amount that is well under what you are now able to charge since you got hit with all those lawsuits.

Very shortly, most people decide to buy chocolate from the government-run candy store because it is cheaper. Whether someone sues the government store or not is immaterial; it will not fail. A government-run business can go way past a state of bankruptcy and has no potential of being beaten. It can keep prices down until it is the only option left. Then, with no competitor, they can carry any quality of chocolate they wish. If they want to balance their budget, they can simply offer a much lower quality of chocolate because they have no competition.

In short, if anyone wants chocolate they are now stuck with only the government candy store, who has no reason or motive to provide quality chocolate.

Is this healthy competition? No, this is a serious problem. We are not dealing with chocolate. We are dealing with people's lives. Once this system is in place, it will be nearly impossible to destroy the nationalized, socialized medicine program without hurting millions of Americans. Even worse is the fact that millions of Americans will be hurting more WITH it in place. This is what is called a "lose-lose" situation.

Our health care is simply too important to be left to bureaucrats in Washington, plus it is unconstitutional. I strongly disapprove of the Democrats' plan and also the Republican incumbent's "Medical Rights and Reform Act" as both are simply matching strains of the same disease - socialized medicine.

Beyond establishing a framework of laws for a competitive free market, running health care is simply not a duty of the federal government, and is best left to individuals and privatized insurance. While the federal government should do its best to deliver the promised benefits from the current form of socialized medicine, expanding this system is out of the question. Younger generations should be given the opportunity to opt out as Medicare's total unfunded liabilities were \$85 T-as-in-trillion in 2008.

With government-run health care, our health care will be as successful as Amtrak and as profitable as the U.S. Postal Service. Since the HMO Act of 1973, government has already been too involved in our health care system, which is why it is so expensive today. We should always keep in mind that the inefficient HMO structure did not arise out of the free market, but rather was forced into existence by the Nixon administration. Nixon pursued HMOs after being told that "all the incentives are toward less medical care, because the less care they give them, the more money they make."

The answer? Why not protect the candy stores from frivolous lawsuits in the first place? Why not offer tax relief for those paying private health care premiums to encourage private health care? Any interested in learning more can visit <http://towneforcongress.com/platform-issues/health-care> where I address health care economics, tort reform, the Constitution and what I would do as Congressman in detail.

As an unaffiliated candidate for U.S. Congress in 2010 facing down the two-headed, one-party system that is leading our country down the path to economic ruin, I wonder why all DC seems to do is redistribute money from those who have more to those with less? Don't we have two wars boiling over borders, a monetary system on the brink of collapse, and an ailing economy to deal with first?

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