



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
NORTHWEST RIVERSIDE COUNTY

League of Women Voters Northwest Riverside County
P.O. Box 20785
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Dear Letters Editor,

The League of Women Voters believes that genuine health care reform legislation must expand access to health care coverage and curtail its escalating costs.

Expanding coverage can be done by regulation: require insurance providers to cover all applicants regardless of pre-existing conditions and require all Americans to carry health insurance.

But this type of regulation will do nothing to curtail the staggering and unsustainable cost of health care in our nation. A government-sponsored insurance program is our best opportunity to bring health care costs in line with economic reality.

Currently, we are spending \$1 out of every \$6 we earn on health care. Over the last five years working families' premiums increased 300 percent as insurance company profits rose over 1,000 percent.

The insurance industry is a business and its first priority is its fiscal health, not its customers' physical health. Accordingly, the industry has a profit incentive to deny, drop or delay health care coverage. It has no incentive to keep its costs down. In fact, it is estimated that the costs we now struggle to bear will double in the next ten years.

This market will not right itself without competition.

Our market-driven economy demands the competitive pressure that an affordable government-sponsored insurance option provides. Offering everyone the choice of a government administered plan, like Medicare, is our best chance to lower costs while increasing choice and competition.

The League of Women Voters of Northwest Riverside County urges readers to contact their local legislators and insist that health care legislation include a public option. Our physical and economic health depends on it.

Joan Donahue, President
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