

I am sorry, but I favor Medicare for All, or some version of the same. Of course no program, government or private, is ever perfect, but since it was enacted in the 60's, Medicare for seniors has worked quite well. The overwhelming majority of seniors are happy with it. Connecticut can adapt it, or Romney's Massachusetts program, or create a better system of its own.

Private insurance does indeed provide many jobs in our state; unfortunately too many in claim denial. Because it answers to stockholders, the inherent flaw in private health insurance is the less it spends on medical care, the better. For years insurers have cherry-picked its policyholders and has done all it can deny coverage. Ask any doctor how he/she likes fighting with insurers. As a former business owner, I strongly support free enterprise, but it is not the answer to everything. The amount Americans spend on medical care compared to other developed nations is a national disgrace, especially since we are neither healthier nor live longer than elsewhere. Unless I was misinformed, until recently, half of all bankruptcies were caused by catastrophic medical costs.

I personally know of a teenage girl who was struck by a car. Her medical bills came to \$300,000. I don't know for sure if that is why they had to sell their house, but they no longer live there. In another case, my mother's medical insurance maxed out, forcing her onto medicaid. America's private health system has failed too many for too long. Finally, my having rheumatic fever twice as a child nearly bankrupted my parents; with three other children to raise, recovery from my illnesses' devastating costs took years.

On health care delivery let us agree to disagree. However, this moderately liberal old guy (and friend of Bill's) voted for you and fully expect to do so in future. I am particularly impressed with your support of sustainable, clean energy, a matter I consider of utmost importance. I have ideas on how we as a state has opportunities to greatly increase our use of solar energy, provide for the eventual closing of Millstone, and lower costs. I will share my thoughts soon.

Thank you for your years of faithful service. And for founding the excellent Flanders Fish Market! (On Wednesdays a group of us lunches there after the Flanders Baptist meeting. Join us when you can!

Sanford (Sandy) D'Esopo