

From December 18, 2008 D&C

Universal health care, done right, is best bet

The lead Dec. 12 editorial, "It takes a nation," pointed out that some implementation of universal health care needs to be planned and executed. Several arguments for moving toward it follow.

# A single-payer system is not socialized medicine, for that is when the government owns the facilities and employs the medical people.

# We must look at the entire system, not just components, and everyone must be included to prevent "cherry-picking."

# Those unfortunate enough to incur severe illness or injury should not also be severely penalized financially. We should not mind paying a little extra to protect us all from such a "one-two punch."

# The preventive aspect of continuous health care is more cost-effective than just showing up at the emergency room.

# We should view catastrophic insurance like liability, fire or flood insurance; that is, as protection one hopes not to have to use.

Finally, incremental implementation would allow moving to an affordable, adaptable, dependable and portable system.

—JOHN R. GOLDEN

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