

Naples Daily News Letters to the editor: July 17, 2009

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Letter: We need them to get it right

Editor, Daily News:

While it is encouraging that Senate and House committees are beginning to seriously consider health-care reform legislation, it is critical that the U.S. Congress takes action and passes real health-care reform in the next few months.

America is facing a health-care crisis caused by a combination of skyrocketing costs and an insurance system that leaves 47 million of us without any coverage. The current health-care system is endangering both our economy and our health.

According to a study reported in The New England Journal of Medicine,

70 percent of Americans surveyed believe the health-care system needs major changes, if not a complete overhaul.

Health-care reform legislation must guarantee quality, affordable health care to all U.S. residents. It is universal coverage that will determine the humanity of our system, and all Americans must have health-care coverage, including the choice of a quality, affordable public insurance plan.

In addition, it is essential that comparative data on treatments, benefits packages and medical outcomes be made publicly available so that individuals can make informed health decisions.

Congress needs to take additional strong action to reduce the costs of health care for individuals, businesses and communities. Legislation must provide effective cost controls, equitable distribution of services and allow for efficient and economical delivery of care.

Offering everyone a government administered health insurance plan like Medicare that would compete with private health insurance plans will be key.

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