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When I was asked by the Senate President to represent her on the Blue Ribbon Commission for Health Care Reform I came into it believing that there was something between free market and single-payer. What I have learned is that while that is true academically, politically it is one or the other as those two sides are so polarized they will never come together.

As the Blue Ribbon Commission for Health Care Reform found in its number crunching, we currently spend \$30.5B annually on health care in CO, that buying all the uninsured in CO crappy insurance coverage, with a policy that is only useful until you actually need it, like \$35k-\$50k max, \$1K ER... (I went through more than \$50K in 30 min when I hit the ER) will cost us about \$1.3B; **and, coverage does not equal access!** If we went to free-market-single-payer we can provide all medically necessary care for all Coloradoans, and reduce our spending by that same amount.

Polls show the voters want significant change in our health care system and are ready for single-payer. By an overwhelming majority MA just passed a mandate for their legislators to work towards a single-payer system and ditch their "individual mandate" for everyone to buy insurance, which they passed a couple of years ago.

The problem in getting to single-payer is having political leaders with the fortitude to pursue it to implementation. The insurance industry would spend a billion dollars just in CO to stop it; support to elect their allies, TV ads, a ballot initiative, and so on, and if that didn't work they would just rub you out ☺

If we cannot get there on a national level we need to allow the states to try to develop single-payer programs as pilots that could be replicated nationally. That means giving them waivers from ERISA, allowing them to fold in Medicaid, Medicare, VA, Federal Employees Health Benefits, etc.

We have to stop trying to fix a broken system. Giving the insurance industry and administrators more money is not the cure for what ails us. The recently retired CEO of United Health Care got a golden parachute of, ironically, \$1.3B, 1 man, 1 company, which, as I learned when the Commission did it's hearings around the state, has angered the public. To quote a prominent political leader, "If health insurance was a manufactured product we would recall it for being defective!"

Thank you.