

It doesn't take too long to realize that the US healthcare system is leaving us all in the dust.

A trip to the Emergency Room in Spain ended with an apologetic receptionist charging me \$4.00. Working as a receptionist in a Portland Emergency Room, I routinely had to charge patients a \$100 copay, and inform them that their out-of-pocket costs may well exceed \$1000. If patients would ask for more clarification, I was unable to give it; the true cost of any visit to the hospital is usually not known for several weeks. I believe that this systemic uncertainty is overly complicated and unnecessary.

The journey to a better system will be a long one. Obligating our state to ensure that we have access to healthcare may be the best step. As I've heard in the Joint Task Force on Universal Health Care meetings, "The most expensive choice is to do nothing." I support this amendment to our constitution.