

Letter to the Editor

Reader Speaks Out on Taxes and Health Insurance

The article “The Case for Taxing Employer-Sponsored Health Insurance” (*Health Policy Newsletter* September 2009) raises my hackles. It essentially is arguing for a socialized economic system. That is not what this country is based on. The observation that the tax subsidy is “inequitable” for employer provided care ignores the reality that the higher tax break is given to those PAYING MORE TAXES. Further, employer implementation of health care plans is not identical. Some offer more comprehensive plans,

others much less so. The company underwriting of plans varies greatly. Given that this structure is the basis of health insurance in the US (with, according to the article 60% of Americans covered this way) why in the world would we look to damage it!? I most fundamentally disagree.

The solutions to the uninsured and Medicare/Medicaid population issues should not be sought by putting the current system at risk! There is no doubt that the wage earning/tax paying

population of the US will foot the bill as they do now one way or another. Let us not do damage in the name of solving the parts which require attention. ■

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