

Heller Health Initiatives

Mobile Mammography Promotion Act (H.R. 2964). Mobile mammography units provide screenings that save lives in underserved areas. H.R. 2964 helps support this vital work by allowing mobile mammography units to purchase fuel tax-free, which is especially helpful in rural areas. This legislation, which I introduced with Congresswoman Melissa Bean (D-IL), has more than 20 bipartisan co-sponsors.

Volunteer Travel Tax Relief Act (H.R. 953). I am very concerned by the out-of-pocket costs veterans in Nevada face when they must travel to receive healthcare. This legislation offers many veterans a tax deduction of up to \$400 to help compensate for service-related travel expenses. H.R. 953 has attracted more than 30 bipartisan co-sponsors.

Outside Congress in government-run healthcare (Heller #2). I oppose the creation of any government-run healthcare plan that could eventually cover up to 114 million Americans. However, if such a plan is created, Members of Congress should have to live with it. During the House Ways & Means Committee markup of this bill, I proposed an amendment that would enroll Members of Congress in this government-run health plan. While three committee Democrats joined all committee Republicans in supporting my amendment, it was narrowly defeated in an 18-21 vote.

No taxpayer-funded health benefits for illegal immigrants (Heller #6). I proposed an amendment during the health bill markup that would have used existing citizenship verification systems to ensure that the \$773 billion in "affordability credits" created in the bill would only go to citizens and legal residents. Unfortunately, my amendment was defeated by a party-line vote, 15-26.

(Heller #2 and #6 offered during Ways and Means markup 7/16/09)

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LIC # _____

NAME _____

D.O.B. _____

ADDRESS _____

Dear Nevadan,

There is little disagreement that healthcare reform is necessary. Real healthcare reform will lower medical and prescription drug costs, implement tort reform to curb frivolous lawsuits, and improve access to care in underserved areas. In my view, the legislation before the U.S. House of Representatives represents a \$1.5 trillion government takeover of our nation's healthcare system.

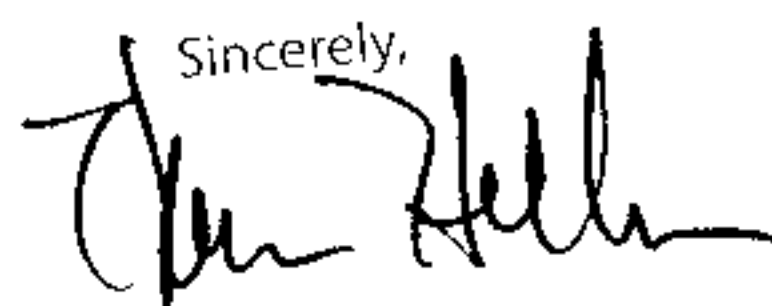
Like in Europe and Canada, government-controlled healthcare system in the United States would ration treatments and sacrifice the quality of care. Under the Canadian system, patients have to wait for practically all diagnostic tests and procedures, resulting in lower survival rates for diseases such as cancer*. Instead of adopting this model, Congress should focus on fixing the flaws of our existing system to ensure all Americans have access to care.

In an attempt to improve the majority's healthcare bill, I offered an amendment to close a loophole that allows illegal immigrants access to taxpayer-subsidized healthcare benefits. I also believe Members of Congress should live by the laws they write for the American people. So I offered an amendment requiring that all Members of Congress and their dependents enroll in any government-run plan established by the new healthcare bill. Both amendments failed by largely party-line votes.

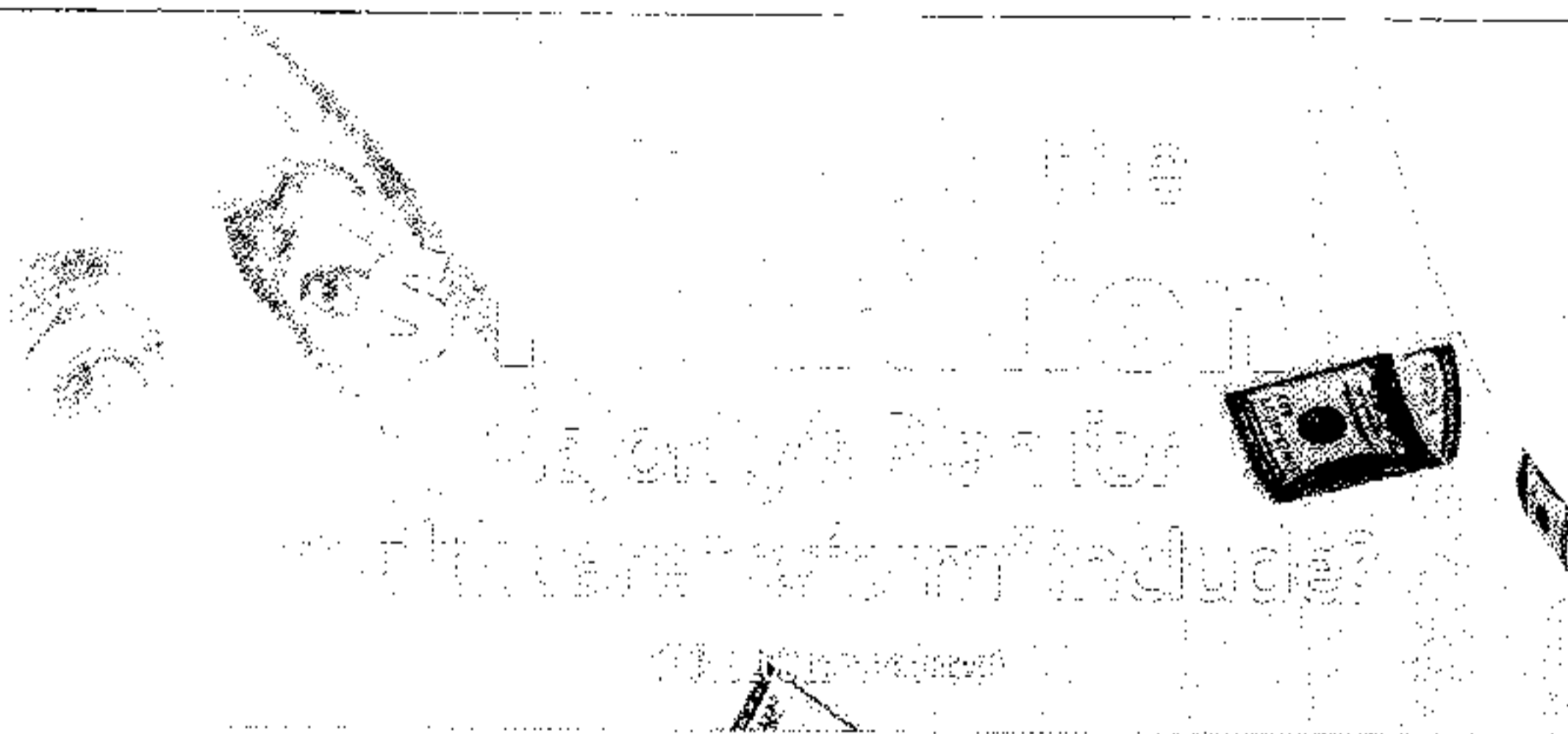
My healthcare plan includes medical liability reform to curb frivolous lawsuits. This is the most effective way to reduce healthcare costs. Tax incentives should be provided for the purchase of health insurance, and steps should be taken to help improve access to healthcare in rural America. Finally, to lower prescription drug prices, Congress should authorize the reimportation of prescription drugs.

As the healthcare debate moves forward, I will continue to fight against government control of healthcare and promote true reform that provides greater accessibility for all Americans.

*Dr. David Gratzler, Manhattan Institute

Sincerely,


Dean Heller



- ✗ **Places a crippling tax on small business income at a time when the economy is fragile and businesses are still shedding jobs.** (Section 441)
- ✗ **Institutes a payroll tax of up to 8% on small business payrolls.** (Section 412)
- ✗ **Leaves key medical decisions to government bureaucrats rather than patients and their healthcare providers.** (Section 123, 401)
- ✗ **More than \$500 billion in reductions to Medicare and Medicaid, including cuts to providers.** (Pages 223-341)
- ✗ **Seniors who like their Medicare Advantage plans will not be able to keep them. This bill will reverse the decisions of millions who chose to enroll in the program and have come to rely upon these healthcare plans.** (Section 1161)