

ACA falls short in helping Americans

I want everyone who is whining and moaning about the Affordable Care Act to know that I am with you. I don't like it either.

The ACA doesn't go nearly far enough to meet the needs of all our citizens.

My mother died from colon cancer in 2009. During the two years following her diagnosis, she ran up a little more than \$500,000 in medical expenses. Medicare paid nearly all of those expenses (as it should have).

Later that same year, my mother-in-law passed away. She experienced a myriad of health problems during the last few years of her life; ultimately, her expenses totaled around \$800,000. She was a military widow, so between Medicare and Tricare, all of her expenses were paid (again, as they should have been).

It is outrageous that anyone should have to beg for assistance when they need medical treatment. It especially appalls me anytime I see a jar with a child's face on it sitting on a store counter proclaiming something like "needs kidney transplant."

We are the richest nation in the world and we still have this kind of nonsense going on?

Where societies choose to allocate their resources is a reflection of their values. There are at least 48 million people in this country without health insurance. We should be absolutely ashamed.

No American should ever go without the medical attention they need for any reason – and certainly no American should ever be forced into bankruptcy because he or she has been diagnosed with cancer or any other catastrophic illness or injury.

Charity only goes so far. It can't be expected to fulfill the rapidly expanding need we have in the health care arena.

We need a formal system that ensures no one ever has to go begging for help when a family member gets sick.

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