

03/2010

Re: Health care Analogies

Charles Krauthammer in his recent column compares health care polling, where people generally support the specific details of President Obama's proposed health care reform, to asking someone whether they would be willing to pay for ice cream or perhaps a dozen red roses delivered every Tuesday. At \$25 dollars a pop for a typical flower arrangement, one might reasonably consider declining such an offer.

But let's bring the analogy a little closer to reality by considering whether people would be willing to pay \$607 per month to have their asthma or chemotherapy treatment delivered every week, when not having it delivered would probably produce what is euphemistically described as an "undesirable medical outcome". By the way, this is based on the average health care cost in the US at \$7290 per annum which is almost double the second highest health care cost in the world- Switzerland (and yes, they do live on average more than two years longer than we do).

I wonder if even Charles Krauthammer would decline such an offer? I'd guess no, and the same goes for all those congressman on the government provided socialist health care insurance they all enjoy. If it's good enough for them, why isn't it good enough for the rest of us?

John Donovan
Eugene, OR