

Letter: Bill McQuade: In defense of care that's offered under Medicaid

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One does not often see someone take an argument to its illogical conclusion as fast as Mike Stenhouse (“I’ll take free choice in care over government mandates,” letter, March 3). He states that Medicaid and “all other government-run insurance is substandard insurance and we all know that,” and he discourages government involvement in health care, education and even child care.

According to the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Medicaid is comparable to private insurance in its benefit package, access to care, and is even doing a good job controlling the rising costs of care. Moreover, many Medicaid programs are administered through private managed-care organizations that are accredited by the National Committee on Quality Assurance, the same organization that accredits private insurance.

As for Medicare — that other government-run program — it receives overwhelming support from its beneficiaries and has the lowest administrative cost of any large insurance program.

Government involvement in the Affordable Care Act is more accurately characterized as providing protection to consumers against insurance companies offering high deductible policies at below market rates that do not offer any meaningful coverage.

At the end of the day, Medicaid and other government-run insurance provides very good care and anybody who has taken the time to read the literature knows it!

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