

Letters to the CSA

Letter to the Editor:

I must say that I was struck by the overall negativity of “our” spring *Bulletin* as far as the health care reform debate/outcome was concerned. As a physician, I think that the primary concern is access to care, and any plan that insures an extra 30 million people is overall a good thing. Of course, it isn't perfect and will need changes/additions in the future, but one must start to fix a problem before one can actually change anything. The cynical comments seemed to me to be more at home on FOX News or perhaps the Republican National Committee Website. Count me as being very disappointed in the tone projected. We all should see this as the incredible step forward that it is and help improve on it going forward. Thank you.

Robert Jarka, M.D.



Dear Dr. Jarka:

Thank you for your comments with respect to the tone of the spring CSA Bulletin's addressing some of the issues relating to national health care reform. I am in agreement with you that expanding health care coverage from 83 percent of Americans to 95 percent (about 32 million citizens) is, indeed, a good deed, a good first step. From my overview of the Congressional bill, it was more of a healthcare insurance reform (although it fell far short of where it could have gone) than a healthcare delivery reform. However, at least something worthwhile and sorely needed was achieved, and I hope we will keep on course to meet the ethical goal of providing quality health care for all Americans. There was, of course, no tort reform, nor was the SGR fixed, nor were there updates for certain California Medicare geographic payment localities. (This still is being debated in the Senate.) These all must be addressed in a truly comprehensive reform of our health care delivery system.

As you thankfully were interested and motivated enough to send us your letter, I am offering you to go one step further: How about writing your thoughts about health care reform for the Bulletin? I would be delighted to provide you with any needed editorial assistance in developing your opinion piece.

Thank you, again, for expressing your concerns and sharing your thoughts with us.

Stephen Jackson, Editor