

Re: a dumb query? pls humor me

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- *From:* judd@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx
 - *Date:* Thu, 8 Mar 2007 12:42:24 -0500 (EST)
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On 8 Mar, Freddy Freeloader wrote:

judd@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx wrote:

...

I don't doubt that. No system is perfect. I've heard horror stories from the US also. No doubt Canadians, Britons, etc. have them also. Romania's system may very well suck.

My problem is people who make statements like "Our system is the best because government is always inefficient", or "We have the best system in the world", without actually looking at any data, or at best relying on anecdotal evidence.

-Chris

| Christopher Judd, Ph. D. judd@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx |

What many of us who are against socialized medicine are against is a nanny state, as it has been proven over and over again that a nanny state isn't a cure all for problems. All it does is raise taxes, and create a monopoly that has no incentive to do things efficiently.

I agree with you in general about a "nanny state". I'm not sure that a working national health care plan is necessarily a nanny state. Private industry can also create the nanny state mentality. Try and find a good diving board (esp. > 1meter) at a public park in NYS. The

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reason that they're no longer there is because of the insurance companies (and yes, high settlements awarded by juries play a part in this).

I've worked at a government run healthcare facility, albeit in the maintenance department, and I was in culture shock after working in the private sector all my life. I couldn't believe the inefficiency that was accepted as the norm and thus just winked at when it caused major problems.

When an employee can sit in the library and read during the majority of their work day, and critical maintenance that they are personally responsible for such as cleaning out drip pans under refrigeration coils in the meat coolers for the kitchen that supplies the meals for all patients is neglected so long that pans with sides more than an inch tall were dripping water over the sides of the pan because of the mass of mold, slime and bacteria filling them, and the maintenance records report that the work was done faithfully every month for the past 5 years, while the supervisors laugh about it, then the existing government run health system is thoroughly broken.

That type of nonsense shouldn't happen anywhere; I certainly wouldn't tolerate it in any staff that I supervised.

You actually have to see the inside workings of the government bureaucracy from the perspective of someone who has worked in the private sector all their lives to realize just how badly broken the current government system is. To say the entire health care system ought to be a government sponsored monopoly is a truly frightening idea to me.

I actually currently work in a government agency (NYS DOH labs), after having worked in private industry and being self-employed. We actually do things fairly efficiently in the labs, although there are some unique problems in this area.

While government bureaucracies may in general be wasteful, medicare is currently more efficient than any private plan. I'm not sure that the "free market" guarantees the best results for products or services which are not truly commodities, and I place health care in this category.

| Christopher Judd, Ph. D. judd@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx |

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