

Medicaid is broken. Patients often can't find doctors who will accept Medicaid. Medicaid reimbursement rates are often lower than the cost of providing the care. This combined with the cost of complying with the overwhelming regulations and paperwork, often causes doctors to refuse to take Medicaid patients.

Medicaid is inefficient. It is estimated nationally that less than 1% of Medicaid dollars actually go to pay for the doctors, labs, x-rays, etc. In Montana, Medicaid annual expenditures are nearly a billion dollars, with less than \$10 million actually providing the care, which is the whole purpose of the Medicaid system in the first place. (source: <http://www.statehealthfacts.org>)

Currently, when the poor get sick, they go to the emergency room, and the taxpayers pay dearly for that. They go for rashes, sore throats, and the average cost per visit is \$1,000, all paid for by taxpayer money.

An alternative to expanding Medicaid, are charitable clinics that are being set up around the country. At these clinics, such as the Zarephath Health Center in New Jersey, the average cost per visit is just \$13, which is paid for by donations, not taxpayer funding.

For physicians who volunteer in a free clinic, the Federal Government provides medical malpractice insurance for the work they do there. This frees them up to provide common sense medical care, without ordering all those extra tests, which makes them very efficient.

We need to promote the establishment of free clinics, not set up by the government, but by volunteers. How do we get physicians to volunteer? Have the state cover the liability insurance of any physician in their private practice, who will donate 4 hours per week in a non-government, free clinic. This would increase the access to care for every specialty. This solution would save the taxpayers billions of dollars in the coming years, and the poor would get the care they need.

To learn more about real free-market solutions, watch "A Physician's Solution to Healthcare" on youtube.com at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HZpgeLczFkY>

To track the progress of the free clinic concept, visit:

www.NJAAPS.org

www.AAPSONline.org

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