11-4-2009

Magazine article addresses pressing health care concerns

University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.umt.edu/newsreleases

Recommended Citation


https://scholarworks.umt.edu/newsreleases/22031

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the University Relations at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in University of Montana News Releases by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.
Contact: Gregg Davis, director of health care industry research, UM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 406-243-5113, gregg.davis@business.umt.edu.

MAGAZINE ARTICLE ADDRESSES PRESSING HEALTH CARE CONCERNS

MISSOULA —

During the last four decades, growth in the cost of delivering health care persistently has exceeded the overall average growth rate in the economy by nearly 2 percentage points, according to an article published in the latest issue of the Montana Business Quarterly.

Health care reform of some shape will have to occur because our present health care cost trajectory is unsustainable, author Gregg Davis explains in an article titled “Health Care Reform: What Should We Expect?”

“In polls across the country, fixing health care is right up there with fixing the economy,” Davis said. “Emotions are high on both sides of the health care debate, as evidenced by President Obama’s visit to Belgrade this summer where both supporters and opponents of the Obama-style reform showed up in large numbers.”

According to the article, the issues driving health care reform are basically twofold: cost and access to health care for the uninsured.

The Census Bureau estimates that 46 million people in the United States were uninsured in 2007. In Montana, a state with a population just under 1 million, nearly 150,000 people are uninsured.

Because of increasing health care costs, more than half of all Americans report having cut back in some way on medical spending. More than one-third of households state that they have
used over-the-counter drugs or relied on home remedies instead of seeing a doctor, the article states. A similar number have canceled dental care. Other reactions to the cost of health care included skipping recommended doses of medicine or not filling prescriptions at all. Nearly three of 10 people report postponing recommended medical care, some for a chronic illness such as diabetes.

Health care reform must consider cost and how the programs are financed.

"Ideally, reform will promote a system where access is improved for millions of Americans without further driving up costs," Davis said. "And, ideally, reform should finance programs without adding to the federal deficit and, ultimately, our country's growing national debt. Still another challenge is that reform should restrain cost increases without sacrificing quality or choice for the consumer."


The Montana Business Quarterly is published by The University of Montana Bureau of Business and Economic Research and is partially supported by the Missoula Federal Credit Union. Annual subscriptions are available for $35. For more information or to subscribe, go to http://www.bber.umt.edu or call 406-243-5113.

###

CBS
Local, dailies, weeklies
110409bber