

To the Editor:

As a former RN, I have seen many people who are seriously ill and without the resources to pay for health care. They are of all ages, ethnicities, genders, and races, but their common trait is that they are desperate for medical attention. When they do come before a member of the medical profession, it takes no time at all to realize that, for most of them, it has been a long time since they've had any medical attention at all. Unfortunately, many wind up in our emergency rooms which is the most expensive form of treatment, and usually taxpayers end up footing the bill.

This is why I was so encouraged when Congress, at the urging of President Obama, enacted the Affordable Care Act. Designed to provide affordable insurance to the many millions who were uninsured, it was and is a godsend to our most marginalized citizens. While I acknowledge that it is not a perfect solution, it is a beginning - and one that should be tweaked to work out the kinks. It certainly should not be scrapped, as the Republican party would like to do.

The person who is most qualified to lead the nation in the effort to make the ACA better is Hillary Clinton. I've checked out her website and reviewed her stands on health care. She wants to defend the ACA, build on it to slow the growth of out-of-pocket costs, crack down on rising prescription drug prices, and hold insurance companies accountable so they profitably invest in research rather than increasing costs. These are just a few things that Clinton wants to do to protect Americans' wellbeing. And her track record indicates she will. As First Lady, her support for health insurance for 6 million children was deemed critical. Since she has been a long-time leader to expand access to quality, affordable care, I trust her to continue her fight.

She'll get my vote in November, and I hope she'll get yours too.

Harriet Hurt
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