

Presenter: Heidi Best, MD

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Ron Paul:

Dr. Paul is a Republican Texas congressman who advocates for a limited government, return to constitutional principles, free market, and defense of individual liberty. He is a retired Ob/Gyn physician who initially served in the Air Force in the 1960's, then practiced in Texas until late-1970's when he joined congress. He returned to medical practice from 1984-1997, and then rejoined congress in 1997.

Overall approach: take government and HMOs out of health care

HMO Act of 1973 forced employers to offer HMOs to employees. Third-party payers cause maximum charges by physicians and no incentive for patients to make informed decisions about diagnostic testing

Money spent on health insurance is exempt from taxation when offered by employers; however, health insurance purchased by individuals is not.

Eliminate HMOs and establish health care savings account

Pre-tax savings account

Available to all, including senior citizens

Allow premiums paid by individuals or self-employed to be tax deductible

High deductible, low cost insurance for catastrophes

Pay cash for routine visits

"Negotiable" fee for service by physicians

Allows for low-overhead costs and competitive pricing

Allow small businesses to group together through an "association health plan" to buy insurance for their employees

Abolish Medicare

Allow health care decisions for elderly be made at the state or local level or via HSAs

Abolish Medicaid

Volunteer and pro-bono medical care

Advocate against the New Freedom Commission on Mental Health (mandates mental health screening for all children, starting in preschool – without parental consent)

An assault on our personal freedom by “just looking out for the common good)

Benefits special interest groups for psychiatry and pharmaceuticals

Deny federal grants/funding for these programs

In favor of physician-assisted suicide

In favor of medicinal marijuana

Against abortion

Unborn child is life – all lives have the right to civil liberty

Remove federal courts from abortion issue – decision should be left up to the states

In favor of allowing prescription drugs to be imported

SOCIALIZED MEDICINE = VA HOSPITAL