

HEALTH CARE



My opponent and I agree that we need to reform our health care system. The rules we're living under were written in 1943 and need to be updated. But we have radically different ideas about how to achieve reform.

My opponent wants to end employer-sponsored health plans and abolish private insurance. He also wants to end Medicare as we know it. He and his party want to repeal private insurance and Medicare as we know it and replace it with a Soviet-style socialist single-payer, government run plan.

I have the opposite approach. I believe you can not only keep your plan but pay less and have more choices with better benefits. To do that we need to modernize our health system so that all workers in our 21st century economy enjoy the benefits as those in traditional jobs. We turn patients into shoppers and equip them with buying. Reforms creates choices it doesn't take them away.

Patient choice isn't an option; it's a right.

I know a fair amount about health care because I was paralyzed from the waist down in a serious car accident in 2014. I believe I'm alive today because we don't have a single-payer system, which invariably rations care, limits choices and lowers quality.

The problem is not that the free market has failed in health care. The problem is that it has never really been tried. Again, the rules regulating health care were written in 1940's. Since then, we've had third parties – insurance companies and government bureaucrats – standing between doctors and patients.

We need patient freedom, choice, competition and price transparency. That's the best – and only – way to drive down costs.

P.J. O'Rourke had it right: If you think health care is expensive now, just wait until it's free.