



NEW AMERICA

F O U N D A T I O N

Is Single Payer Right for America?

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Overview

- Theory is nice, but...
- Technically, it could work
- But politically??
- A better alternative for the US Now

Theory is nice, but...

- The interests of patients, providers, and citizen taxpayers have to be aligned
- This is hard to achieve
 - Provider payment issues
 - Information asymmetries
 - Innovation incentives

Technically, it could work

- Medicare *could* absorb everyone
- Medicare quality and cost performance is not stellar
- Colorado single payer plan is better, more comprehensive and aware of FFS incentive problems

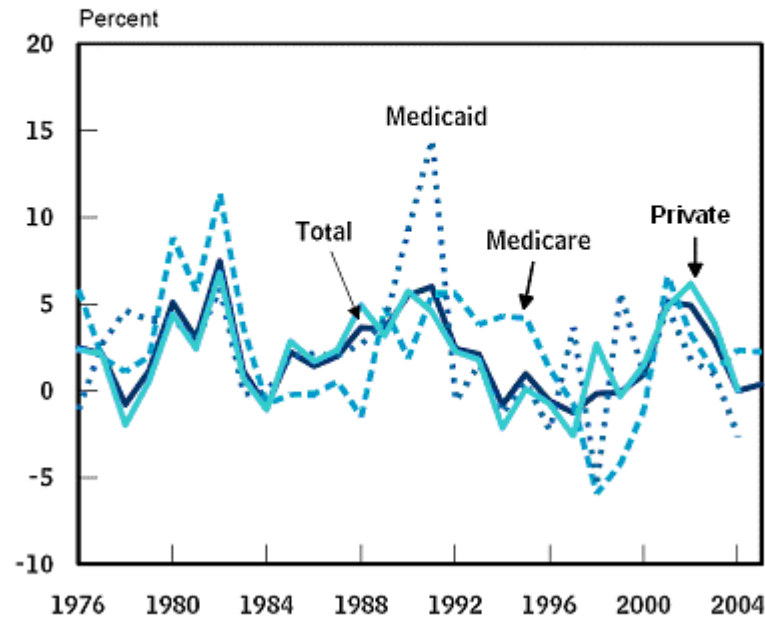
But Politically?

- Do the people trust Elites enough?
 - Fairly easy to demagogue “one size fits all”
- Congress has difficulty delegating enough
 - Providers are constituents too
- Cost performance is fairly mixed

Cost Performance



Excess Cost Growth in Medicare, Medicaid, and All Other Spending on Health Care



Source: CBO, "The Long-Term Outlook for Health Care Spending," November, 2007

A Better Alternative

- Cover *ALL* in a sustainable system
- Sustainable = Bipartisan
- Bi-Partisan = private markets must play a major role
- Sustainable = more efficient delivery system
 - Information infrastructure
 - Smarter incentives
 - Comparative effectiveness information
- Sustainable = nurture political will to cover all and enhance value per dollar *simultaneously*