

THE GOVERNMENT'S ROLE IN HEALTH CARE: SEN. JOHN MCCAIN (R-ARIZ.)  
McCain Discusses Health Care Proposal  
October 11, 2007

"Government programs such as Medicare and Medicaid should lead the way in health reforms that improve quality and lower costs. Like most of our system, Medicare reimbursement now rewards institutions and clinicians who provide more and more complex services. We need to change the way providers are paid to focus their attention more on chronic disease and managing the treatment. This is the most important care and expense for an aging population. And in a system that rewards quality, Medicare should not pay for preventable medical errors. I am appreciative of the therapeutic benefits of modern pharmaceuticals. However, I am strongly opposed to adding another unfounded entitlement to the fiscal train wreck that is Medicare by providing all seniors with a costly drug benefit, even those like me who can more than afford to pay for their medicine. After all, we vote ourselves a sufficient number of pay raises to take care of that."