

Health care: ‘We are being treated as fools’

Feb. 2, 2024 at 4:41 pm

By [Letters editor](#)

The Seattle Times

Re: “[How recent WA legislative changes could save you money on health care](#)” [Jan. 26, Local News]:

The article is good as far as it goes, but we need more real changes if we are going to have affordable health care for all of us. Yes, insulin is cheaper, hearing aids are covered, and cancer screening is more available and covered. But the “62%” of people in the state — my patients — who have trouble affording health insurance, prescriptions and care still cannot afford the insurance they want and the out-of-pocket expenses now required.

We are being treated as fools if the health industry enriches its investors, administrators and certain high-paid employees — but not the low-paid employees who do most of the work — while saying repeatedly that they can’t cut costs, improve quality and be even half as efficient as every other country in the developed world.

Yes, they need to work with policymakers to ensure they all make needed changes together. Yes, they need to compete on quality and cost — and not buying up competitors and providers. And, yes they need to work on solving problems and not being barriers to improvement.

Bob Crittenden, MD, MPH, Seattle

Letters editor *If you would like to share your thoughts about this letter or on other issues, submit a Letter to the Editor of no more than 200 words to be considered for publication in our Opinion section. Send to: letters@seattletimes.com*

The Seattle Times closes comments on particularly sensitive stories. If you would like to share your thoughts or experiences in relation to this story, please email the reporter or [submit a letter](#) to be considered for publication in our Opinion section. You can read more about our [community policies here](#).