

Letter to the Editor from LWV-LT

Letter to the Trenton Times Published January 15, 2011

To The Editor:

Since President Barack Obama signed sweeping health-care reform legislation into law March 23, 2010, new changes in our health-care system are well under way. We are expecting the federal Department of Health and Human Services to release the first ever and final version of the "National Health Care Quality Strategy and Plan" this month.

It is clear that reforming health care will take time. Recently, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, otherwise known as the CMS Innovation Center, was created in an effort to test and develop new health-care strategies to improve quality of care and lower costs or keep costs neutral. It is predicted that the combined purchasing power of both programs (Medicare and Medicaid) will help the rest of the American health-care system at the same time. The Affordable Care Act provides \$10 billion in funds to the CMS Innovation Center to work on this research. Repealing the Affordable Care Act now would be a tragic step in the wrong direction.

Health-care reform is not just about insurance -- it is about taking personal responsibility. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius stated that all Americans must do their part by taking responsibility for successful health-care reform. Individual commitment to a healthy lifestyle is part of the Health-care Reform Plan, and everyone should take advantage of preventive services such as cancer screenings. The ultimate goal is to keep people healthier while keeping costs down. Stakeholders, both private and public, should strive to create a national movement toward staying healthy. The League of Women Voters of Lawrence Township reminds everyone to practice healthy habits for disease prevention.

Sue Varga,
Lawrence

The writer is chairwoman of health-care reform for the Lawrence Township League of Women Voters.