

A new GMCB Public Comment has been received.

Submit Time: 2/21/2024

Name: Walter Carpenter

Affiliation:

Town/City:

Topic: AHEAD Model

Comment: Dear GMCB members and Staff: I wanted to get this up before the meeting today about the AHEAD model with the AHS. I'm working fourteen days a week to support these new experiments concocted agency that we do not need, CMMI, whose only goal is to privatize Medicare/Medicaid by cloaking it in enigmas like payment reform, value-based care, and so on. I do not think I can make the presentation of today, February 21, because of having to work all day. I think that this transcript of a taped conversation on the formation of what came to be called HMO's is as telling for our era as it was back in 1971 when President Nixon and his henchmen (they were all males in those days) were latching onto this "model" to avoid a publicly-financed health care system like Medicare-for-all or even Universal Primary Care here in Vermont. The purpose was to keep our private system siphoning our health care dollars into the appropriate channels to influence policy to keep the status quo by re-arranging it a little bit under different nomenclatures. This is what the HMO tried to do and what the ACO was about as well. The newest rendition of this trend is the "AHEAD Model." Its profound defects have already been enumerated by other commentators so I will not rehash them. These renditions starting from the HMO act of 1973, have always ended up as dismal failures because their purpose is to not about affordability, controlling costs, strengthening primary care, or any of the other buzzwords tossed around now. The AHEAD model is another rendition of what John Ehrlichman described to President Nixon as "the incentives run the right way." After the utter failure of OneCare to achieve any of its objectives despite the millions we've fed into it, The AHS should be ashamed of themselves that they are thinking about this, never mind actively pursuing it.

[https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Transcript\\_of\\_taped\\_conversation\\_between\\_President\\_Richard\\_Nixon\\_and\\_John\\_D.\\_Ehrlichman\\_\(1971\)\\_that\\_led\\_to\\_the\\_HMO\\_act\\_of\\_1973](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Transcript_of_taped_conversation_between_President_Richard_Nixon_and_John_D._Ehrlichman_(1971)_that_led_to_the_HMO_act_of_1973)

This is a transcript of the 1971 conversation between President Richard Nixon and John D. Ehrlichman that led to the HMO act of 1973: John D. Ehrlichman:

"On the ... on the health business ...

President Nixon: "Yeah."

Ehrlichman: "... we have now narrowed down the vice president's problems on this thing to one issue and that is whether we should include these health maintenance organizations like Edgar Kaiser's Permanente thing...."

President Nixon: "Well, what's ... what's the judgment?"

Ehrlichman: "Well, everybody else's judgment very strong ly is that we go with it."

President Nixon: "All right."

Ehrlichman: "And, uh, uh, he's the one holdout that we have in the whole office."

President Nixon: "Say that I ... I ... I'd tell him I have doubts about it, but I think that it's, uh, now let me ask you, now you give me your judgment. You know I'm not too keen on any of these damn medical programs."

Ehrlichman: "This, uh, let me, let me tell you how I am ..."

President Nixon: [Unclear.]

Ehrlichman: "This ... this is a ..."

President Nixon: "I don't [unclear] ..."

Ehrlichman: "... private enterprise one."

President Nixon: "Well, that appeals to me."

President Nixon:

Ehrlichman: "Edgar Kaiser is running his Permanente deal for profit. And the reason that he can ... the reason he can do it ... I had Edgar Kaiser come in ... talk to me about this and I went into it in some depth. All the incentives are toward less medical care, because ..."

President Nixon: [Unclear.]

Ehrlichman: "... the less care they give them, the more money they make."

President Nixon: "Fine." [Unclear.]

Ehrlichman: [Unclear] "... and the incentives run the right way."

President Nixon: "Not bad."

Post Comment: Yes