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Berwick Opposes Customized Care

Welcome to the Health Freedom Minute. This is Twila Brase president of Citizens’ Council on Health Care.

In 1996, Don Berwick, President Obama’s choice to run Medicare, co-authored a book on health care. “[W]orkers’ behaviors,” he wrote, “like the parts of machines, are objects for standardization.” He wants doctors to provide standardized, not customized, care.

Berwick, who loves socialized medicine, wants to strip doctors of power through the establishment of integrated managed care systems—in other words, the corporate socialized medicine systems that we call health plans today.

But doctors are not the primary cause of rising costs. At fault are government and employee entitlement programs, third-party payments, and the resulting loss of cost-consciousness—the very things that socialized medicine and today’s health plans make worse.

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