

# Public option vital to health care reform

Contrary to recent comments that question whether a health care public option can reduce or eliminate competition, the opposite is obvious fact. Who controls compensation for physicians? Carefirst Blueshield Bluecross and United Healthcare control 80 to 85 percent of the market. Their premium structure is forcing doctors out of Maryland. Small businesses are dropping or cutting back or increasing employees' costs for health care. The public option by its nature is competition to the so-called competitive free enterprise system. When corporations impact the public, our only option is for government to act in our behalf.