

Thursday, October 22, 2009 — Last update: 10:31 a.m. MDT

SIGN IN | REGISTER | SUBSCRIBE | E-EDITION | ARCHIVES (DAILY INDEX) | MOBILE

Salt Lake City
Mostly Cloudy
51°
[Weather](#) | [Traffic](#)

Deseret News

SEARCH DESERETNEWS.COM

GO

Site Web: powered by **YAHOO!** SEARCH

In sickness or in health:
DESERET NEWS HEALTH SERIES

ZoneAlarm® Extreme Security 2010
We play it safe, so YOU don't have to!

DOWNLOAD NOW

Food
HARMONS
ADVERTISMENT

- Home
- Utah
- Sports
- Life
- Entertainment
- LDS Newsline
- Movies
- Multimedia
- Opinion
- Business
- World & nation
- Bloggs
- Obituaries
- Classifieds
- Education
- Salt Lake County
- Utah County
- Davis County
- Crime
- Politics
- Legislature
- Weather
- Columnists

Health care — a right?

By **James Thalman**
Deseret News

Published: Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2009 9:58 p.m. MDT

105 comments [f](#) [t](#) [b](#) [g+](#) [E-MAIL](#) | [PRINT](#) | [FONT](#) +

Page: [1](#) [2](#) [Next >](#)

Editor's note: This is the fifth in a five-part series.

Contrary to popular belief and Utah's conservative political bent, an overwhelming majority of Utahns consider having access to basic health care as much a right of citizenship as access to a basic education.

More than 80 percent of Utahns said in a new Deseret News/KSL-TV survey that basic care is a right — 59 percent said definitely, while 22 percent said probably. Only 16 percent said it definitely or probably isn't a right.

"This kind of survey question is rare — I don't know of another one — and the results come as a bit of a shock," said Art Caplan, a bioethics pioneer who is keeping close tabs on the course of health-care reform nationwide. "To my eye (the results) clearly indicate there is a lot of sentiment for change in health care among Utahns," said Caplan, who is currently the most widely cited ethics expert by health-care reformers who are figuring out not just what to do but what is the right thing to do.

"Whether health care is a right is the root question of this whole debate, but no one's really talking about it," Caplan, director of the Center for Bioethics at the University of Pennsylvania, told the Deseret News.

Story continues below



Putting the question of basic health-care access on the same footing as access to a basic education "puts it in the correct context," he said. "Is having a healthy society as important to us as having an educated one? This is the heart of the reform debate. This is the toughest public policy question our era will face, and it all comes down to this one moral question."

Health care simply isn't a right, never was and never will be, from the framers of the Constitution to today's society that sprang from it, Sen. Orrin Hatch told the Deseret News editorial board recently.

"Framing it as a moral question is simply wrong because health care does not occur naturally and is not self-evident," said Hatch, a member of the Senate Finance Committee who voted Tuesday against advancing a health care reform bill for floor debate. The committee approved the bill

[Story photos](#) | [Story graphic](#)



August Miller, Deseret News

June Mazurie, of Atria Sandy, plays Nintendo Wii bowling in a tournament at Draper Senior Center. She uses Wii to maintain health. [GALLERY \(9 PHOTOS\)](#)

Related content

Articles

- [New approaches to health care](#)
- [Local doctor tries his own reform](#)

[Latest updates](#) | [Most popular](#) | [Most commented](#)

- [Latest Coen movie at Rome fest](#) 10:31 a.m.
- [Pharmacist to testify in Smith case](#) 10:30 a.m.
- ['Big Brother 9' winner going to court](#) 10:29 a.m.
- [US followed Polanski in Austria](#) 10:29 a.m.
- [Retrial ordered in Travolta case](#) 10:27 a.m.
- [Kidman on Hollywood and violence](#) 10:26 a.m.
- [Ogden police chief under fire](#) 10:24 a.m.
- [Australian World Cup bid needs help](#) 10:12 a.m.
- [S.Africa could bid on 2020 Olys](#) 10:11 a.m.
- [Wozniacki tennis match probed](#) 10:10 a.m.



Jay Evensen: Teachers abusing kids
Does it seem as if the news these days is filled with stories about...



Dad blog: 'Wild' movie lessons
The movie "Where the Wild Things Are" reminded me of what



Mom blog: Naked Swank
Hilary Swank casually mentioned that her boyfriend's 6-year-old son sees...

Latest comments



ADVERTISEMENTS

Behind every medical innovation is a host of collaborations.



[LEARN MORE >](#)



however.

"It's a choice. It's the freedom of health care and a kind of personal medical liberty," Hatch added.

Making care a right doesn't mean it's a government entitlement, as it is often regarded by conservatives, Caplan said. "No one is saying anything must happen at all. But if we as a society could just agree on just that much in this debate, a lot of the dissonance surrounding reform would dissipate and we could clarify exactly what reform ought to be."

Alta edges Fremont in OT

re: come on/10-22 said:

Wow nice comeback. I guess there is an excuse for everything

Page: [1](#) [2](#) [Next >](#)

Recent comments

105 comments

Health care is neither a right nor a privilege, it's a good or...

matt | Oct. 22, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.

If right = entitlement, as in I'm entitled to some of your money,...

Tim D | Oct. 22, 2009 at 9:59 a.m.

An interesting thought. Recently a standardized test was...

slgs5 | Oct. 22, 2009 at 9:58 a.m.

 [Add your comment](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

Salt Lake City Art School

Learn The Art Of Design, Fashion,
www.local.com

Drop 30 Pounds in 3 Weeks

Fastest Way to Drop Pounds. Guaranteed! As Seen
on CBS
LosingWeightEasily.net

Need Affordable Health Care?

Get Affordable Health Insurance Quotes Online -
Rates from
Health-Insurance-Quotes.com

Ads by Yahoo!

[deseretnews.com: Home](#) | [Subscription services](#) | [Contact us](#) | [FAQ](#) | [Feedback](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Purchase photos](#) | [RSS](#) | [Privacy policy](#)

ADVERTISEMENT



CHASE
OPEN YOUR CHASE CHECKING ACCOUNT TODAY.
 \$100 Cash bonus!
 GET DETAILS