

UnitedHealth Shareholder Meeting Question
David Ridenour, President
The National Center for Public Policy Research
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I'm David Ridenour of the National Center for Public Policy Research, a free-market think-tank, and a company shareholder. I have two very quick questions.

First, in recent weeks my organization has spoken directly with the CEOs of Aetna, Wellpoint and Humana about ObamaCare's risk corridor provisions. To a man, each declared that, if available, they will accept a taxpayer bailout based on ObamaCare's weaknesses despite the fact that the insurance industry lobbied for this flawed law while a majority of taxpayers consistently opposed it. So my first very quick question is this: Will UnitedHealth be the one company, perhaps comparable to Ford during the auto bailouts, that reaps the reputational rewards and appreciation of the taxpayers by announcing that it will reject any taxpayer bailouts that may come available through ObamaCare's risk corridor provisions?

My second question relates to the scandal related to the Veterans Administration's promise to provide quality health care for our nation's veterans and its failure to deliver on that promise. From the VA's scandals to Britain, Canada and even Sweden, it is clear that the government-supplied health care model is inferior to private care. As the CEO of a company that makes it possible for many to afford top-notch private care, I assume you agree that private health care delivery systems are the best choice for patients. Given the terrible stories coming out of the VA, many have called for a replacement of the current VA system with one that gives our nation's veterans the same opportunities for good health care that customers of UnitedHealth enjoy. That is, a system in which veterans are given private health insurance policies of their choice, perhaps modified somewhat given the unique needs of some veterans, and the government picks up the tab. This would drive customers to UnitedHealth, which would be good for shareholders, and, even more important, give veterans access to far superior care compared to that which they are now receiving, or failing to receive, from the VA.

Given this, are you or the company calling for, lobbying for, or in some way working to encourage the federal government to change the way it provides health care to veterans, to give veterans access to vastly superior private health insurance plans? Do you support such a change for the VA?

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