

# OUR VIEW: Slow down, understand health care fine print

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Health care and the pros and cons of going to a more government-controlled system has been in the forefront of the media this summer.

Open a newspaper or turn on the TV and it won't take long to find a story of someone, whether it's President Obama or a mother of three living in the projects, arguing about how to pay for the cost of health care.

People living in the United States, whether citizens or visitors, have access to the best medicine, hospitals, professionals and technology the world has to offer.

The problem isn't the care offered but the price tag attached to that care.

It's doubtful that anyone who's had to visit with a doctor, even someone who has insurance, hasn't been stunned by the price tag attached to that visit. Add in a blood test, maybe an MRI, and the cost quickly adds up.

Then you add in medication and it's a wonder anyone can afford to go grocery shopping.

Paying for health care is a nightmare, and figuring out the best way to go about fixing the price problem is going to take some time.

President Obama assured voters that he would fix health care. It's a noble plan. The problem we have is he wants to get this latest bill passed by both the House and Senate as soon as possible.

The latest bill is approximately 1,100 pages long, and congressmen are pushing hard for a vote.

The bill may be a great one, but it's likely no one other than an aide or two has really read the bill.

It's fair to say the United States is in a health care payment crisis.

It's important that people living here are allowed access to the best care around. It's critical that we and our politicians take the time to understand what's being proposed and to weigh its pros and cons.

We don't have to have shouting matches at town hall meetings, but we must be involved and must read the fine print.

It's time to slow down the push to pass the bill. We need to really dig into what this latest health-care-cure-all plan is about.

It may be great. It may be awful. The worst thing we can do right now is allow our representatives to cast a quick vote without knowing just what those 1,100 pages say.w