



Editorial Comment

Alison L. Days, M.D.

Editor

El Paso Physician, EPCMS



He who has health, has hope. And he who has hope, has everything—Arabic Proverb

An optimist is the human personification of spring.
—Susan J. Bissonette

Spring has sprung in El Paso. I love the spring for it brings with it wonderfully warm weather, beautiful blue skies, green mountains and pleasing dispositions. It also brings allergies, dust storms and an increase in car accidents. In order to get the good, we must sometimes accept the bad.

On March 23rd, 2010, the President signed comprehensive health care reform into law. This new law is entitled the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. It is yet unknown whether this heralds a rebirth of health care in the United States, or whether the problems associated with it will bury us further underground. Just like with the acceptance of all that the spring brings, we must also accept the positive and negative that this new law may bring.

Some of the positive things that were passed include expanding access to care with the expansion of Medicaid and CHIP programs, tax credits for small businesses to provide insurance to employees, requiring insurances to cover dependent children up to age 26 years under parents' insurance and forbidding insurance companies from denying coverage for pre-existing conditions. Some of the things left out of the bill as it currently stands are any changes in the SGR formula, no tort reform and no long-term Medicare solution.

I am an optimist. I feel that this bill is only the beginning of a better reform bill in upcoming years. We must remember that substantive change does not occur quickly. We see in spring the trees that were seeds planted years ago. So, too, will be the change in health care. We are not there yet, but the most important thing is that dialogue has begun and we know where we need to stand and what still needs to be done. Doctors and patients will continue the battle to make sure the interests of both parties are represented.

Alison L. Days, M.D.
Editor

AD