

Don't Let A Few Bad Facilities Lead To Privatization Of The VA

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Our scandal-obsessed media has distorted our impression of the VA, but don't let politicians use myths of privatization to milk the taxpayers by providing inadequate care to veterans.

ROSEBURG, OR - Recent articles detailing the history of mismanagement at the Roseburg VA paint a sorry picture of our local facility. It's a story that must be told, but it's important to put the facts into context. Generalizing from the problems of individual facilities without providing context gives the impression that the system is broken, as some claim. However, we can't make sweeping conclusions about the VA without comparing outcomes between it and other healthcare systems. When we do, it's clear that both by objective measurements and patient satisfaction ratings, VA care is superior to that provided by the private sector.

It's important to recognize that our scandal-obsessed media has distorted our impression of the VA, because some politicians and their deep-pocketed benefactors have taken advantage of the negative coverage to target the VA for privatization. Using such stories to justify diverting funds to the private sector, investors in for-profit healthcare like the Koch brothers can reap enormous profits. Under the guise of increasing veteran "choice," these privateers and their political lackeys have already outsourced 40 percent of patient visits and are pushing for more.



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