

Madam President-Elect and members of the board, thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today.

Unfortunately, Uintah County, Utah is notorious for having over 3,000 indigent dental patients per year, the largest % of unwed mothers in the state, the greatest % of meth use in the state, and an over crowded county jail. Each of these dental patients, unwed mothers, and meth users are individuals and each are in need of health care. I've met and shook hands with many of them and have found they are people just like you and me. These are the ones I want to focus on.

I love the United States of America. I'm proud to be a citizen and know that our voices can be heard, both as individuals and as an organization such as NACo. I'm grateful to know that the leaders of this great country understand that each and everyone of us, young, old, rich or poor, need healthcare reform.

We as Americans are acutely aware of problems in the current health system both from providers and insurance carriers, and we are ready for a change. Such a change requires careful consideration, a systematic approach, and most importantly knowledge and understanding of the individual constituents needs.

Can this necessary familiarity with health-care recipients be achieved on a national level? Will there be too many levels of bureaucracy? Will the focus remain on individual needs? The following example explains precisely what I don't want to happen on a national level with health care.

Once upon a time the government had a vast scrap yard in the middle of the desert. Congress said, "Someone may steal from it at night." So they created a night watchman position and hired a person for the job.

Then Congress said, "How does the watchman do his job without instruction?" So they created a Planning Department and hired two people, one person to write the instruction, and one person to do the studies.

Then Congress said, "How will we know the night watchman is doing the tasks correctly?" So they created a Quality Control department and hired two people, one to do the studies and one to write the reports.

Then Congress said, "How are these people going to get paid?" So they created the following positions, a Time Keeper and a Payroll Officer, then hired two people.

Then Congress said, "Who will be accountable for all of these people?" So they created an Administrative Section and hired three people, an Administrative Officer, Assistant Administrative Officer and a Legal Secretary.

Then Congress said, “We have had this in operation for one year and we are \$18,000 over budget. We must cutback on overall cost.”

So they laid off the night watchman.

The original purpose was lost in the effort, and it is important with healthcare reform that we remember who we are doing this for. For each individual.

For these reasons I feel that if healthcare reform is administered at a national level it may become too far removed from the individual citizen.

If indeed Healthcare *must* be administered by the government, it is the strong recommendation of Uintah County, that the states and especially the counties are included. We know our constituents best. This in the effort to reach the *one*.