

News Release

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Liepert shows his cards - and the deck is stacked against us

Health Minister Ron Liepert revealed today that the government is making decisions about delisting more services and opening the door to private health insurance companies. His comments in the Edmonton and Calgary Sun explicitly outline his intention to narrow the scope of public health care, expand the private delivery of public health, and move the province towards an American two-tier-style health system.

"Albertans should be worried about politicians making crucial decisions about their health in private caucus meetings," says Friends of Medicare Executive Director David Eggen "This government is pursuing privatization for the sake of politics and ideology, not for better health outcomes or certainly not to save money."

"It's not about reducing costs," David Eggen points out. "In fact costs for many Alberta families will go up, if Mr. Liepert brings more for-profit health care into the province."

"He is trying to make it sound like Albertans can buy health insurance like they are ordering off a menu at a restaurant," Eggen says, "Albertans see through this sort of nonsense."

He points out that Albertans with pre-existing conditions or without big bank accounts could end up going without some medical services entirely.

"This would be a major move toward a U.S.-style system with all its unfairness and economic inefficiencies," David Eggen said.

"Instead of dismantling our health system, the Minister should be focussing on making our public system work better. This is the way we can save costs, and maintain security for Albertans, not by throwing things open to the American health industry."