

# OPINION

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## LGBTQA people deserve fair health care

There is no fairness when health care does not care for all people equally. Compared to other minority groups, LGBTQA patients are denied medical help most often because of their sexual orientation and gender identity.



BY AIPERI IUSUPOVA  
STAFF WRITER

“When health care providers are allowed to deny LGBTQA folks care, it steals their ability to feel validated in their identity,” said sophomore and president of PRIDE Colin Nollet. “It is as if medicine tells people that they are not worthy of seeking help.”

We have to understand that diversity of minority groups within the LGBTQA community is large. However, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and other queer people all face similar discrimination and stigma in society and in health care.

“There are people in this world who have full rights and citizenship – in our communities, our countries – around the world,” said Kerry Washington, an American actress and gay rights supporter, in GLAAD’s Vanguard Award speech. “And then there are those of us who, to varying degrees, do not. We don’t have equal access to education and healthcare, and some other basic liberties like marriage, a fair voting process and fair hiring practices.”

The LGBTQA community often faces health care disparities as an infringement of their human rights. Medical institutions provide limited training to future health care professionals in addressing the health care concerns of LGBTQA groups.

“Sexual health education is catered towards heterosexual health,” said junior Biology major and SAASA activist Alex Barbour. “The focus is on the teen pregnancy, which is not relevant for women who are having sex with each other, or men. So, there is a need for sexual education that talks about non-heterosexual sex.”

Doctors are not well acquainted with LGBTQA-specific

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COLIN NOLLET, SOPHOMORE & PRIDE PRESIDENT

health issues and challenges that they face in accessing health services.

“Transgendered folks are not afforded the same consideration in health care because their genitalia do not match their gender,” said sophomore psychology and health sciences major and Health & Wellness Peer Educator Molly Anne Marcotte. “Oftentimes trans-men who have not undergone reconfiguration surgery still have to go to gynecologist appointments and still have a risk of pregnancy, which can be faced with much stigma and judgement from health care providers.”

Such discriminatory behaviors have been also observed in emergency and urgent care providers.

“I know the scenes when the paramedics decide to not treat the patient when they find out that the person is a transgender individual,” said Barbour.

According to recent statistics, the number of uninsured LGBTQA Americans exceeds the number of uninsured straight and cisgendered people across the states. This represents an urgent need for reforms within health care.

“The main reason why insurance is an issue is because of (the) discrimination LGBTQA people face in (the) workforce and society,” said Kayo Robinson, a senior human

development and premed major at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. “Many of them get laid off work, which causes them to not have money to afford insurance. This may be different now with introduction of Affordable Care Act, but personal biases of health care providers can still prevent adequate treatment they receive.”

Now that we have highlighted these issues, it is time to take action to create an inclusive and safe environment.

“A potential solution would be to have health care providers undergo gender/sexuality sensitivity and psychological training, so as to better serve marginalized populations at their practices,” said Marcotte.

We, including hospitals, educational institutions, workforce settings and human service providers, should put more effort into becoming allies to all minority groups. We must learn to see ourselves in others, and see others in ourselves, because recognizing someone means humanizing them.

“We are all one, and all the same,” said Lori Roberts, a CCE biology major. “It doesn’t matter who you are and where you are from. As a society, we need to accept that we are all equal. Only then we can change these disparities within health care.”

## Ted Cruz’s presidential campaign not likely to last long

### Fast Facts: Senator Ted Cruz

- Elected in 2012 as the Junior United States Senator from Texas
- Born in Alberta, Canada in 1970, and held dual-citizenship until 2014 when he renounced his Canadian citizenship
- Served as Texas Solicitor General from 2003 to 2008

INFORMATION COURTESY OF WIKIPEDIA.COM

“Today I am announcing that I am running for president of the United States,” said Texas senator Ted Cruz on March 23 in his campaign announcement. “I want to ask each of you to imagine millions of courageous conservatives all across America rising up together to say, in unison, ‘we demand our liberty.’”



BY WILLIAM BURTON  
STAFF WRITER

To Cruz, this was a call to action for other conservatives in his party. However, Cruz is known for his extremely conservative views, which have come under scrutiny by his own

party members.

Cruz’s extreme conservatism may prove to be detrimental to his campaign. If Cruz does not make his views more moderate or swing voters support his extreme agenda, both of which are equally unlikely to happen, he will not win in the primary elections.

One of the ideas supported by Cruz is a flat tax. This term refers to a tax system where everyone pays the same rate, regardless of their income bracket.

“Steve Forbes, who was a candidate some years ago, also campaigned on a flat tax,” said Robert Duncan, assistant professor of political science. “He didn’t make it out of the primary.”

The idea of a flat tax is definitely not new, but it does not have much support.

“It’s probably not going to happen,” said Bob Williams, chair of the economics department. “The notion of flat tax has been around for a long time. The last time we had real tax reform was in 1986.”

Cruz’s flat tax, if implemented, would have a negative impact on the United States economy.

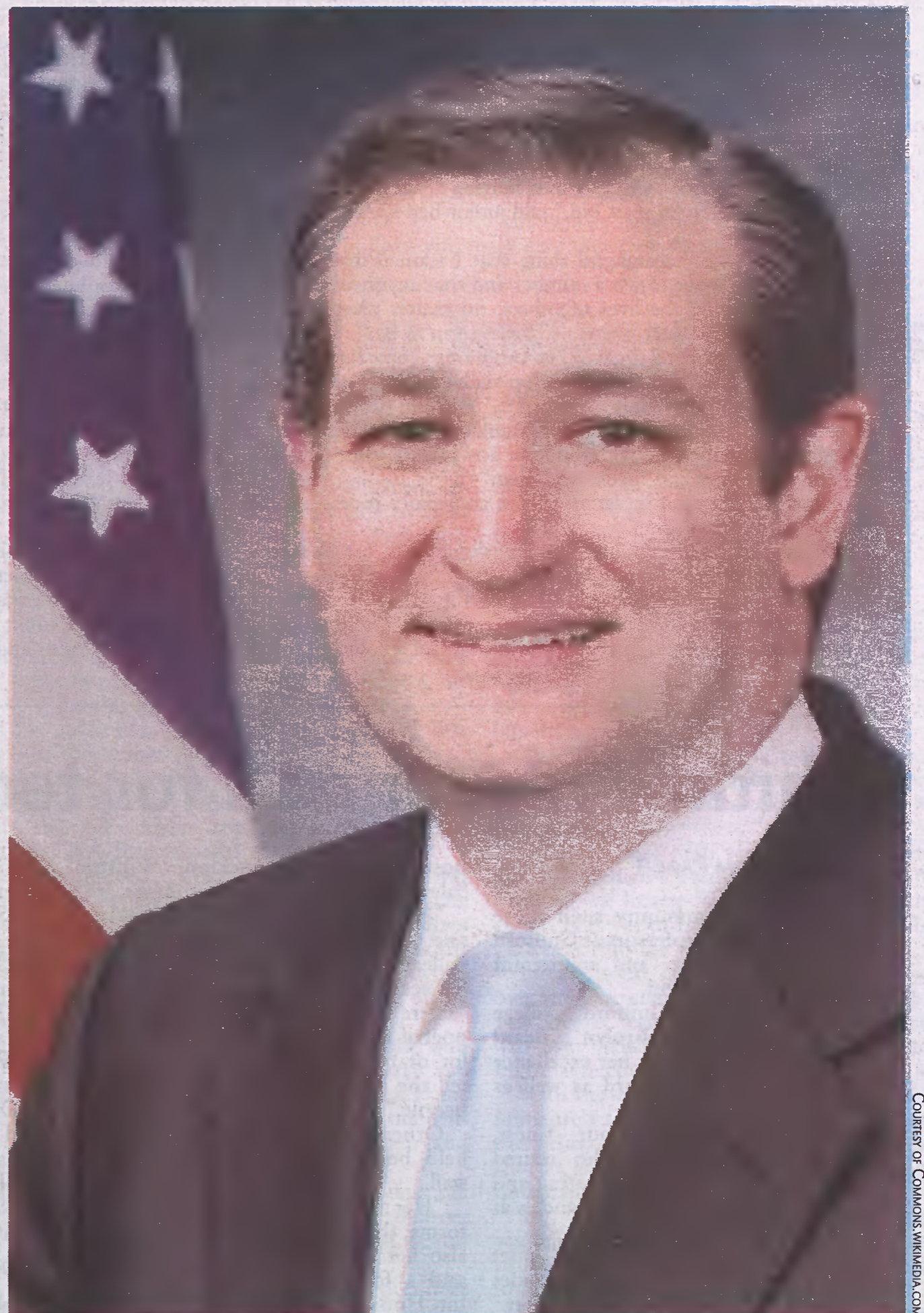
“I think that implementing a flat tax will exacerbate the income inequality and make things worse,” said Natalya Shelkova, assistant professor of economics. “Income inequality has been widening and it’s, at the moment, as wide as it was before the Great Depression.”

Another major component of Cruz’s campaign is to defund the Affordable Care Act. In 2013, Cruz was blasted by members of his own party for the role that he played leading up to and during the government shutdown.

“(Defunding the Affordable Care Act) would set folks back,” said Williams. “The 10 million people or so who have now been able to get access to healthcare in the last two years, what would happen to them? The Republicans have no real plan to put in its place.”

This lack of a solution really hurts Cruz’s plan to defund the Affordable Care Act. Without a solution, it appears to be more of a personal vendetta against the president rather than implementing a plan that puts the American people first.

Overall, Cruz’s lack of support not only from leaders in his party but from the American people is going to hurt him during the primary elections.



Ted Cruz, Texas Republican senator, recently announced he’s running for the presidency in 2016.

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