

STATE AND NATIONAL

# Group seeks to streamline U.S. health care

By Jason Richardson  
State and National Editor

Pamela Bailey, president of the Healthcare Leadership Council, said that under a health-care system proposed by her group, all Americans could be covered without any net increase in costs. "We think we're spending enough money now to take care of our health-care needs," Bailey said in an interview Tuesday. "We must retarget and spend efficiently so that all Americans can get the health care they need."

Bailey's organization is a group of 50 health-care industry CEOs formed to establish a consensus on solutions to the nation's health-care crisis.

Bailey said the group was watching First Lady Hillary Clinton's task force on health care carefully.

"We are pleased to see the emphasis the president has placed on the issue," Bailey said, but she added that she would reserve judgment until she saw the plan's final draft.

"The basic framework (of the Clinton plan) is managed competition, the reform of the health-care system that we have supported for some time," she said. "It is unclear whether the final plan will include the heavy hand of regulation," which would damage the chances for real reform, Bailey said.

But Bailey said government did have an important role to play in reforming the marketplace for health care.

"Government can play a role in setting rules, especially in the insurance market," Bailey said, adding that practices such as "job-lock," under which workers cannot leave bad jobs because

they need health-care benefits, and the firing of sick employees should be ended by government.

"Government can also help Americans who don't have coverage. Medicaid needs to cover all of the poor," she said. Eventually, Medicaid could be folded into the managed-competition system, Bailey added.

"What we don't need is for government to take over the health system," she said. "No government regulation has ever been as merciless as the market."

The Healthcare Leadership Council's managed-competition plan would have some government involvement but largely would rely on market solutions, Bailey said.

"Managed competition is based on a strong belief that quality needs to be identified clearly and rewarded with more business," she said. "Competition for patients should be on the basis of cost, quality and patient satisfaction."

Bailey said having health-care providers compete for patients would ensure that the providers who had the best quality at the lowest cost stayed in business, while inefficient providers would have to change to survive.

The managed-competition approach would utilize private firms and "community nonprofit purchasing cooperatives" that would offer choices of health-care plans to individuals and small businesses.

These individuals and firms would read from a "Consumer Reports-like publication" that would show the cost and quality ratings of each health-care

provider. The consumer then could choose the provider and plan that best suited his needs, Bailey said.

Because the results would be available to the public, "doctors would have every incentive not to overtreat or undertreat," she said.

Also, because most people using the system would operate on a yearly premium basis, rather than the current "pay-as-you-go" method, doctors would have more incentive to practice preventive medicine. Under the proposed system, "doctors' only task is to keep patients well and to do it in the most cost-effective manner," Bailey said.

Under a premium system, companies or individuals would pay a lump sum at the beginning of the year and then pay a small fee each time they went to the doctor. Although the fee would only be around \$5, this would discourage overuse by patients, Bailey said. Patients still could choose to pay a fee for each service, but Bailey said that would be one of the most expensive options.

Under this plan, companies that paid health-care benefits to their employees would pay the premium directly to the purchasing cooperative.

However, Bailey said her group did not advocate a mandate for employers to pay health-care benefits. "But the reform system makes (health-care) plans affordable," she said. "Most companies want to provide coverage, but they can't afford it."

For individuals and companies that still could not afford to pay for employees' health care, Bailey's organization

recommends a subsidy, which would be paid directly to the individual.

Bailey stressed that any plan should provide for continued research and development in health-care issues. "Any reform plan absolutely must preserve the innovation that distinguishes this health-care system from all the others in the world."

However, she said cutting costs also was a major priority. "Incentives in a reformed health-care system would (encourage providers) to continue to seek more cost-saving therapies."

Eliminating frivolous malpractice lawsuits is another major issue addressed by the plan, Bailey said. "We need to reform the malpractice system to minimize defensive medicine," she said.

Defensive medicine costs an estimated \$36 billion per year, Bailey added.

The best way to reform malpractice systems would "involve discussion with trial lawyers and medical malpractice experts," Bailey said. "The end result must be to cut costs."

Involving pharmaceutical companies in the plan would help keep drug costs affordable, she said.

Bailey also said her group was against a rationing plan, such as the one introduced in Oregon. "As a nation, we don't need to be looking at rationing at this point."

The final result of the group's plan would be to provide affordable health care for all Americans, while maintaining high standards of service, Bailey said.

"We must offer a peace of mind that Americans can afford."

# Legislature considers 'Truth in Sentencing'

By Andrea Jones  
Assistant State and National Editor

N.C. Attorney General Mike Easley and state legislators are pushing for a Truth in Sentencing Act that they hope will make citizens more aware of the amount of time convicted criminals spend behind bars.

Senate Bill 831 was brought before a committee Tuesday. If it passes in both houses of the General Assembly, it will become effective this January.

N.C. Chief Deputy Attorney General Andy Vanore said Easley thought the bill was important because it let both offenders and citizens know how much time convicted felons were serving. "Easley feels... people have the right to know that when we're sentencing a person to 10 years, that person isn't going to serve anything like 10 years," Vanore said. "That's why it's called the Truth in Sentencing Act."

N.C. Sen. Dennis Winner, D-Buncombe, the bill's sponsor, said he agreed with Easley. "The people ought to know what is really likely to happen. It just adds a little more truth in the process," he said. The bill would require the N.C. Department of Corrections "to quarterly report the average length of sentencing that is served," Winner said. "In other words, if three years is usually served for a 10-year sentence, they would report that."

He said the effects of the proposed bill would be felt in the courtroom. "At sentencing, the judge is to inform the people what the average time served for sentencing currently is."

According to the N.C. Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, criminals were serving 40 percent of their sentences in 1987. Currently, felons serve about 18 percent of their sentences, and nonfelons serve less than 10 percent of their time.

Vanore said he thought the Truth in Sentencing Act would alert the public to the dilemma created by North Carolina's overcrowding prisons. "Because of the prison overcrowding situation, nowadays when a person is sentenced to, say, 10 years for breaking

and entering, that person... eventually serves about three years," he said. Stevens Clarke, a professor at UNC's Institute of Government, said sentencing reform bills were nothing new for legislators.

"There's actually a bunch of bills," he said. "These bills were drafted for the N.C. Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, which was set up by the General Assembly to improve... sentencing laws."

Clarke, who drafted the sentencing law that has been on the books since 1981, said new bills had attempted to introduce laws that would have more widespread effects than the proposed Truth in Sentencing Act.

"(They introduce) a new system of sentencing, not only for felons, but also for misdemeanors," he said. "These bills recommend... a sentence based on the offense and the offender's previous criminal record. It's different from previous law in that it's more specific. Previous law does include a presumptive sentence, but it doesn't tie the judge down as much."

Robin Lubitz, executive director of the N.C. Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, said the organization had drafted several bills that also were being reviewed by committees.

"The commission has... introduced a package of five bills," Lubitz said. "They're truth in sentencing bills also, but they're a little different. We're proposing that the judge have a maximum and minimum sentence (for each offender)."

He said Winner's bill could be helpful but added that quarterly averages might be misleading in the face of rapidly plummeting percentages of time served. "Even though that's what they're serving now, that doesn't mean that's what they will be serving by the time they're ready to get out."

"The bill is a step toward truth in sentencing, and I think it's a step in the right direction, but it doesn't go quite as far as our bills do," he said. "It's a step toward letting the public know how much time criminals are serving."

## Campus Calendar

**WEDNESDAY**  
5 p.m. UNC Vegetarian Club will offer free vegetarian dinner in the park across from the Franklin Street Post Office until 7 p.m.  
International Center will hold an English Conversation Partners Program Reception for all American and international partners and their families in the Toy Lounge on the fourth floor of Dey.  
5:15 p.m. Asian Students Association will hold a cultural workshop on Laotian Dancing in 206 Union.  
5:30 p.m. Lutheran Campus Ministry will hold a worship service followed by a fellowship meal at

6:15 p.m. at the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church on Rosemary Street.

Newman Center will present a program by Rich Henderson of Intervarsity after dinner.

Student Branch of the N.C. Association of Educators will meet to discuss "Understanding Diversity" in 220 Peabody.

International Relief Committee will hold a symposium titled "How to End Atrocities in Bosnia" with Dr. Leticia, former adviser to the president of Croatia, in 100 Hamilton.

VAC will hold an informational meeting on how to volunteer with children in the Campus Y lounge.

UNC Pre-Law Club will hold elections in 206 Union.

7:30 p.m. Student Congress will meet in Room 2 of the Law School.

Carolina Critic will hold its general staff meeting in Suite C of the Union.

UNC Hillel will welcome Professor Henry Landsberger to discuss Jewish life in Germany in 112 Saunders.

SEAC will welcome the director of the Carnivore Preservation Trust to speak on endangered species in 224 Union.

8 p.m. United We Stand UNC will meet in 203 Dey.

9 p.m. WXYC 89.3 FM will present Dance Music on Wednesday Night Feature.

## Wilson

a member of the BCC Advisory Board. The Wilson site, the last clear construction site on the main quad, is a prime candidate for expansion of science departments.

Without referring specifically to the

Wilson site, Feiss said the science divisions of the College of Arts and Sciences were in severe need of more instructional and library space.

Venable Hall and Kenan Labs, both science buildings, border the Wilson site, and some department officials have expressed an interest in building a sciences building next to Wilson Library.

The University administration has had an alternative agenda throughout the months of site negotiations, Amana said, and advisory board members be-


lieve they "have not always been given a fair shake."

Mark Chilton, a Chapel Hill Town Council member and UNC senior, told the committee that Chapel Hill's Research Conservation District laws might prohibit construction on the Coker site.



Chilton said he believed the zoning laws would bar any construction on the Coker site by private citizens. "If anybody besides the University owned this piece of property, it would be deemed unbuildable," he said.

from page 1


**MCAT**  
**A FREE SEMINAR**  
Learn about the structure of the MCAT and about recent trends in testing.  
Discover what medical school admissions committees look for in their candidates.  
Learn about the most comprehensive MCAT preparation offered in the Triangle.  
**Wednesday, April 21**  
**7:30 PM**  
**308 W. Franklin St., Suite E**  
**Please Call To Register**  
**929-7737**  
**SELECT TEST PREP**  
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES, INC.


**• HALF PRICE •**  
**JEWELRY SALE**  
ON SELECT BLACK MOUNTAIN  
STERLING SILVER AND 14K  
GOLD JEWELRY  
NOW THROUGH APRIL 30  
  
**Black Mountain Gallery**  
Eastgate Shopping Center  
Chapel Hill, NC  
967-8101  
Mon-Sat 10AM-6PM

**Student**  
**Sto-AWAY**  
**968-3173**  
Call today for information  
or reservations  
**LEAVE US THE HASSLE!**  
• We'll pick up and store almost anything for the summer.  
• We are insured.  
• Convenient pick-up and drop-off locations and dates  
• CHEAPER THAN STORING IT YOURSELF!

**GEORGE CARLIN LIVE!**  
  
**April 22**  
**Carmichael**  
**8:00 PM**  
Tickets:  
\$10 UNC Students • \$15 Public  
At the Carolina Union Box Office  
962-1449  
**•• PLUS ••**  
**"I Get To Open For George" Comedy Competition**  
April 12 • 7:00 PM  
Union Film Auditorium  


**Possibly the First Time In History UNC Students Will Hang Onto Their ATM Receipts.**

  
Date 04/02/93 Time 13:20 Machine 095  
Account Number 5054500300308078943  
HONOR TRANSACTION AT  
STUDENT CENTER  
CHAPEL HILL NC  
012504365

  
**FREE**  
DOMINO'S TWISTY BREAD  
OR GARDEN FRESH SALAD  
WHEN YOU ORDER ANY  
1-OR-MORE TOPPING  
PIZZA AT REGULAR PRICE.

Get a free deal at Domino's every time you use your HONOR, PLUS or CIRRUS card at our new ATM in the student center. Just hang onto your First Citizens ATM receipt. It's good for a free Twisty Bread or Garden-Fresh Salad when you order a Domino's 1-or-more topping pizza at regular price. This offer is good for pickup or delivery at any Chapel Hill area Domino's, now through June 30, 1993. See, your ATM receipts do serve a practical purpose after all.

**I FIRST CITIZENS BANK**  
Offer valid only with First Citizens Bank receipts from the ATM located outside Daniels Student Center Store. Member FDIC.