

McCain sees room for better health care

by UPI

WASHINGTON - Republican presidential candidate John McCain says he thinks affordable health care can be made available to all Americans without a mandated universal system.

The Arizona senator said on ABC's "This week With George Stephanopoulos" that he doesn't think government-run systems such as those in Canada and in Europe will succeed in the United States.

"I think it's a warmed-over proposal that we rejected back in the early 1990s and I'm certainly not interested in raising people's taxes, as many of the Democrats are interested in doing. I'm absolutely opposed to that," McCain said, adding he also is opposed to requiring everyone to buy health insurance coverage. "We've got to make health care affordable and available. There's plenty of ways to do that."

He said he's been working on a plan "for a long time" but "it's a very tough issue." One way, he said, would be to expand community health centers and the S-chip program, offer tax incentives for poor people, put health care online, medical malpractice reform and promote health savings accounts.

However, he said, one problem getting everyone covered "is there's a lot of healthy Americans that say I just don't want health insurance."

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