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One size won't fit all

The uninsured, rather than being easily classifiable, are a group composed of young and old, healthy and sick, and poor and wealthy. Merely expanding Medicaid, a program that is already becoming unsustainable, is therefore not the way to solve the uninsured problem.

That is why more innovative approaches -- such as the tax credit expansion for small employers recently signed into law, and its inclusion of health savings accounts -- are so important. Tax credits for individuals and families to obtain needed coverage are being considered at the federal level. Kansas should also be acting on the concept as a logical extension of its current program.

In addition to tax credits, legislators in Kansas should make every effort to remove existing barriers to affordable coverage. Price setting in Topeka has a chilling effect on insurance availability in the state, and the state's reputation as a home for numerous mandates puts Kansans at a disadvantage.

This is an opportunity for Kansas policymakers to find a better way to deliver health care to those who need it without burdening programs such as Medicaid with the impossible task of providing services for all.

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