

Johnson: Bill not good for hospitals

Written by Elizabeth Barrett
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JOHNSON

New legislation will increase costs.

Passage of federal health care legislation hurts rural hospitals like Gothenburg Memorial Hospital by driving up the price of health care.

GMH administrator John Johnson believes there is nothing beneficial about the legislation.

More federal oversight with additional rules and regulations that have yet to be written will make health care more costly, he said.

“Anytime there’s additional legislation, that means more federal oversight,” Johnson said. “That view is shared by anyone in health care in rural communities.”

In rural areas, he said costs will increase and hospital boards will be forced to tighten budgets even more.

As a result, Johnson said it will become more difficult to recruit doctors because hospitals can’t offer what they can’t afford.

Throw in lower Medicare and Medicaid payments to health care providers and the cost of service spirals upwards even more.

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DOCTOR CLINIC MOVING FORWARD

Funding is still an issue but CHM board members plan to proceed with the building of a new physician's clinic, according to hospital administrator John Johnson.

"We have to go ahead with it," Johnson said. "Otherwise we can't attract new blood in the future with the clinic we have now that is inadequate in size."

The board will meet Friday at 3 p.m. in the Wellness Center board room for a planning meeting in which a contractor and design could be approved.

Three construction companies have submitted bids for an estimated 10,000 square-foot building that would accommodate up to five doctors and two physician's assistants.

