



OPINIONS

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I guess I should get used to it, because until we have public financing of all elections, the only ones who will be represented are the groups that can afford high priced lobbyists to “convince” politicians to vote their way. They’ll never really represent ordinary people and never really do what’s best for the country.

Face it, until all the money is taken out of the election system — and that means getting rid of those nasty, distorting attack ads that Karl Rove is so good at — politicians will not try to do what’s best for the country, only what’s best for the special interest groups that got them elected.

— **Kim MacCloskey, Durand**

Give thanks for All Kids

Aaron Chambers writes about “implementation problems” of All Kids, but he misses the full picture (“All Kids health care has mixed results,” Nov. 18).

The state has taken pains to ensure that enough doctors and clinics participate in this program so every covered

child will be connected with a regular source of care. In order to accomplish this, the state raised the rates it pays to doctors who care for children, created bonuses for doctors who see kids the recommended number of yearly visits and sped up payments to doctors who see children.

Doing these jobs well is essential to the creation of an efficient health care system that delivers care for children. Chambers complains that this has been “slow.”

A better word is “careful.” Undoubtedly, problems will turn up as this process continues.

However, Illinoisans should take a look around the nation and realize that All Kids is the envy of other states, most recently copied by Wisconsin. At this time of giving thanks, it’s important to remember that All Kids is a work in progress, but it is also an accomplishment that public officials in both parties and the voters who put them there can be proud of.

— **John Bouman, president,
Sargent Shriver National
Center on Poverty Law,
Chicago**