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EDITORIAL: REFORM HEALTH CARE, BUT DON'T NEGLECT RESEARCH

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We're still somewhat short on details concerning what the Elk Run biotechnology center in Pine Island will look like, but at least we know that access won't be a problem.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation demonstrated the state's confidence in the project's viability last week when it designated \$14.5 million for a new interchange at County Road 12 and U.S. 52, which will provide a direct link to Elk Run's 2,300 acres.

[...]

In the current national discussion about health care reform, the top priorities appear to be access and cost containment. We want health insurance for everyone, better efficiency and less bureaucracy. Waste and redundancy are the enemies as we try to get maximum bang for our health care dollars.

That's the big picture, and it's important. Medicine, however, is about individuals. When cancer strikes a family member, we might be concerned about the cost of care, but we're far more interested in the outcome of that care.

For the best outcomes to be achieved, America must not become so focused on "fixing" its care-delivery system that it loses sight of the life-changing research that is being performed every day across the nation, including the work being done in labs at Mayo Clinic, the University of Minnesota and the Hormel Institute in Austin. Elk Run will soon join that list.

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