

Cartoon of the Week

This cartoon spoofs an old saying to take a look at the debate over health care reform.

BASIC

This week's cartoon is the work of Teasha Martinez, a high school student from Nevada. This cartoon uses an old saying to make its point. **Does anyone know it?** ("You can lead a horse to water, but you cannot make it drink.") This is called a proverb, a short saying that states a piece of common-sense advice. It means that no matter how hard you try to convince people of something, you still can't control what they do. **What's happening in this cartoon?** (President Obama is standing next to a horse, labeled "America." He wants



the horse to drink from a container of water labeled "Health Care Plan." But the horse looks confused about whether it should drink.)

What is the cartoonist trying to say? (That President Obama is trying hard to convince the U.S. people and Congress that his health care reform plan is best for the country, but many Americans are not sure.) **Do you think this is a good cartoon?** END

GENERAL

Teasha Martinez, a 12th-grader at Albert M. Lowry High School in Winnemucca, Nevada, drew this week's cartoon. This cartoon uses an old saying to make its point. **Does anyone know it?** ("You can lead a horse to water, but you cannot make it drink.") This is called a proverb: a short saying that states a piece of common-sense advice. **What's happening in this cartoon?** (President Obama is standing next to a horse, labeled "America." He wants the horse to drink from a container of water labeled "Health Care Plan." But the horse looks confused about whether it should drink.) **What is the cartoonist trying to say?** (That President Obama is trying hard to convince the U.S. people and Congress that his health care reform plan

is best for the country, but many Americans are not sure.) Actually, a recent poll shows that most Americans want health care reform and most are even in favor of the so-called "public option," a government-run health insurance plan that would be more affordable than private insurance. **What are the arguments for and against the public option? What do you think about the debate over health care? Do you think Congress and Obama will be able to pass a bill? Do you think it will include a "public option?" What do you think of this cartoon? How does the cartoonist make use of symbols to make her point?** NewsCurrents wants you to send us your cartoons! Every cartoon we receive will be entered into our Student Editorial Cartoon Contest. END

ADVANCED

This week's cartoon is the work of Teasha Martinez, a 12th-grader at Albert M. Lowry High School in Winnemucca, Nevada. **What old adage is this cartoon spoofing?** ("You can lead a horse to water, but you cannot make it drink.") President Obama stands beside a horse labeled "America," in front of a container of water labeled "Health Care Plan." "C'mon," thinks Obama. Meanwhile, the horse looks confused on whether or not to drink. The cartoon cleverly sums up the situation regarding health care reform. President Obama has been trying hard to sell his plan to the public and Congress, but the American public is much like the horse: confused. **Why do you think so many people are confused about the bills in Congress?** In spite of this, a recent

poll shows that most Americans are very much in favor of health care reform. And most support the so-called "public option." **Do you? Why or why not?** Next week, NewsCurrents will publish the results of its poll on "the public option." **What do you think about the debate over health care? Why do you think much of the media coverage has focused on extreme rhetoric? Do you think Congress and Obama will be able to pass a bill? Is this an effective cartoon? What editorial cartoon techniques does the cartoonist employ to make her point?** The editors of NewsCurrents love to get your cartoons! Send them in and they could be featured in this space. Every cartoon we receive will be entered into our Student Editorial Cartoon Contest. END