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By **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

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Carter tributes, reckoning for insurance are related

The striking contrast between two iconic events in the final weeks of 2024 present us with a clear path to making America truly great.

The death of former President Jimmy Carter had me thinking about the outpouring of love and respect following the passing of the centenarian and Nobel Peace Prize winner. It was transposed with the anger, despair and hate unleashed by the violent gun murder of a 50-year-old health insurance CEO just weeks earlier.

Mr. Carter believed in human rights. He believed all lives were valuable. His presidency was dedicated to these principles. He devoted three decades after he left office to organizing health care projects that saved millions of lives in Africa and the Americas. He had the will and found the way.

During the same decades, U.S. political leaders in sync with a profit-driven health care industry appear to have resisted pleas to organize a cost-effective universal health care system that would spare millions life-limiting pain, suffering and medical debt, and save tens of thousands of lives annually. Without the will, there has been no way.

It is horrifying that a murder proved to be the catalyst for patients, doctors and Americans from so many walks of life to express their deep despair, feelings of powerlessness and longing for a humane healthcare system.

We've had the choice all along. To value all lives or put a price on each one. We can only hope that instead of suffering in silence or resorting to violent speech and actions, people will join the movement to achieve what studies and experience show us to be the proven solution: guaranteed publicly financed universal health care.

— *Ellen Karel, Corte Madera*