

Enough with the fights over public health

The health of Italians should not be a matter of political conflict. On one side, the Prime Minister must unequivocally affirm her commitment to strengthening the public health system. This does not mean undermining the private sector or disregarding its role, but rather acknowledging that one of the cornerstones of the Italian welfare system is the extensive public healthcare network spread across the country, which despite regional variations guarantees care for those in need. It would be a grave mistake to let this heritage deteriorate. On the other side, the opposition must do more than make demands and rely on slogans that lack concrete proposals. Simply increasing resources is not enough; clear direction is needed on how to make the system more efficient and where the focus should be.

If a calm and constructive dialogue were possible, it would benefit everyone, starting with the patients, but also the political system, which could project a more thoughtful image, healthcare workers, and private stakeholders. Walking through the doors of a hospital, one might encounter embarrassing situations: multi-million-euro equipment being underused, poorly organized departmen-

ts, and professionals frustrated by management that is more political than administrative. On the private side, there is a tendency to shy away from less profitable treatments and procedures, often not covered by insurance, while public funds are actively sought. It's no coincidence that one of the leading private healthcare entrepreneurs sits in parliament (a nod to lobby influence) and also owns several newspapers.

The relationship between public and private healthcare is a vicious circle: private

healthcare grows on the weaknesses of the public system, and as it expands, it further marginalizes public

healthcare. The gap in social inequality continues to widen. According to the latest **Gimbe** report, 4.5 million Italians had to forgo treatment in 2023. Despite this, healthcare spending increased by 4.3 billion, but this rise was covered by families through out-of-pocket payments (3.8 billion) or private insurance (553 million), while public spending decreased by 73 million. All the while, politics continues to bicker over the health system.

Traduzione di Carlo Ghirri

Ad Rinnovatissima ricevuta

Concrete and shared solutions must be found as soon as possible



Peso: 20%