

## **Advocacy for Universal Healthcare**

If I could advocate for one change in the healthcare industry, it would be that all patients receive universal healthcare coverage in the United States. This issue is substantial because people have delayed, or gone without, medical treatment due to costs: “About half of U.S. adults say they have difficulty affording healthcare costs. About four in ten U.S. adults say they have delayed or gone without medical care in the last year due to cost, with dental services being the most common type of care adults report putting off due to cost.” (Montero 2022). Healthcare debt is a burden for a large number of families in the United States; not only does it affect the physical health of many individuals, it also physiologically affects patients due to the unmanageable financial debt they may fall into seeking treatment they can’t afford. According to AIMS Public Health, people with debt are three times as likely to have depression, anxiety and stress from the worry.

For example, if I was a current health professional, and I had to witness a patient that couldn’t afford the medical procedure I just provided for them, that would really affect my emotions and trigger a sense of empathy in me, especially if I could see that my patient was very worried. In the United States, we do not have universal healthcare coverage because healthcare insurance is a financial decision you can invest in. Regardless, you will pay this insurance whether you need to use it or not, and that is the reason some people don’t get insured. “The overall number of Americans without health insurance dropped by 5.6 million from 2019 to 2022.” (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention). Insurance will cover or decrease the costs of medical bills, and it can be a very smart financial decision to make. However, low income families struggle to pay insurance dues and often have to sacrifice going without it.

Additionally, many countries have demonstrated that universal healthcare is beneficial, although, the result of implementing universal health care would result in a rise of taxes. However: “A June 2022 study found the United States could have saved \$105.6 billion in COVID-19 (coronavirus) hospitalization costs with single-payer universal health care during the

pandemic.” (Britannica 2023). This underscores the fact that universal health care could save the United States some money; citizens would just have to contribute a little more in taxes. However, in the end, overall costs would decrease dramatically because no one would have to worry about medical bills. Therefore, the health of our country would increase both physically and mentally if services were covered and available to everyone.

In conclusion, Healthcare debt in America could be solved by lowering insurance rates so that low income families can insure themselves. As well as managing tax money and collecting taxes for Healthcare. However, a financial plan would be needed for low income families so they could also contribute to nationwide healthcare, but not break the bank. I would strongly advocate for universal healthcare because healthcare is crucial and everyone deserves to be healthy and receive the care they need. I believe healthcare is a basic human right.

#### Works cited

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