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November 8, 2022

ENG1101

Word Count: 2500

U2 Reflective Annotated Bibliography

Introduction

We have a major crisis in our country. It could be education, crime, immigration, or racism.

What I am about to say will be surprising to many people, especially to Europeans who in them and their government accept that health is a human right. It's fundamental. Nonetheless, patriots will fight and say the problem isn't a problem and that it should stay that way. The problem is healthcare in the United States. It is ridiculous how much the U.S allows hospitals to charge for basic medical treatment. My research question is, Can the U.S help to bring down the cost of healthcare?

A reason I got into this question is that it baffles me that the government has a say in many things that you do. Your finances, your family, and your education but when it comes to your health, the government throws a blind eye and just throws money at the problem. Another reason I got interested in seeing how other modern countries can have a healthcare system in favor of the citizen, but they spend less of a percentage of their GDP. America pays almost double what

we pay per capita in other countries. You would think that since we throw money at health care it wouldn't be such a crisis but turns its a disaster.

What I expect to find in my research is to find the root cause of why the healthcare system got to be terrible. What led the morale in America to change from everyone deserves great healthcare to our drug prices being 4 times more than Canada's? I also want to learn whether there are steps we can take to better our healthcare. What can the government do? This brings me to my third hope, which is to learn whether or not we can get rid of this terrible system.

Citation #1

Voxdot.com "The Real Reason American Health Care Is So Expensive." YouTube, YouTube, 30 Nov. 2017, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tNla9nyRMmQ>.

Summary

In this video, we are introduced to very alarming statistics. U.S 2013 spent about 16.4 percent of spending on the healthcare system. That is the most out of any other country in the world. We spend the highest percentage based on our GDP compared to other countries. The alarming statistic is the money that spends nearly half of it is spent on the private sector. This is different than other countries most of their healthcare budget is spent on the public sector. Having health care controlled by the private sector has led to high prices in healthcare.

A reason stated by the video is that since programs like Medicare insure most of the population they have more bargaining power, meaning they could negotiate with hospitals to lower their

prices. Logically if the hospitals say no to the government, then they will lose all those customers who are in Medicare and turn will lose money. People who rely on private insurance companies than they have less bargaining power because each insurance company caters to different types of groups of people. The hospital can charge different types of insurance companies different prices since regarding those sectors hospitals have different options. For the individual paying by himself, you have no bargaining power. No big insurance company or government is on your side with higher leverage to make it harder for the hospital to say no. According to the video, there was a study saying that the individual who tried paying out of pocket were charged nearly 4 times as much as individuals with Medicare.

One interesting fact that the video states is that some countries have a “master list”. The master list is what the government says to hospitals and what they can charge for anything medical-related. The problem with this proposal is that the government would be prone to lobbying since these big insurance/hospital companies already have so much power. The video states that the way to go about this is by following the Bernie Sanders Medicare for all bill. Get everyone on Medicare, have the U.S gain more leverage, and Have the influence of insurance companies deplete so that America can finally realize that Government can do healthcare better

Reflection

I do agree with the video Because it does outline the pro and cons of having government-controlled healthcare. It does not only focus on the benefits but also states the bad side effect that it could have “If we decided to create a single-payer system with one of these huge price lists in the US There would be nothing to stop lobbying from hospitals from doctors from drug companies. And those prices would get influenced. So, we could end up with a single-payer

system that is expensive. Even as expensive as our current system.” One question about the video is what else is inside Bernie Sanders' Medicare for all bills. Does it help people with pre-existing conditions? Some information I did look up is the actual bill itself. I look through Bernie Sanders's bill to grasp more knowledge on what he is proposing. One thing I would say to this author is how we make this into action. How do we take the information from the video and put it into action? How can we make our problems have solutions? That government can do healthcare better. That the government needs to stop throwing money and fix the problem. Take all the bargaining power.

Quotation

“That plan, on its own, it wouldn't get American health care spending far down overnight. But it would at least begin to recognize what we already know and what most other countries already do That health care is one of those things the government can do cheaper and better than the private sector.”

Citation #2

Lee, Keat Jin. ‘Healthcare: Affordable quality coverage for all. Otolaryngology-Head, and Neck Surgery 140.6 (2009): 775–781. Web.

Summary

This article explains solutions to help better healthcare in our country. Gives a list of 20 effective steps some of which stress the importance of having government-regulated healthcare. Important parts of this article are where the author states that the United States government spends 16% of its national GDP on the healthcare system. That is about 2.3 trillion dollars. Even so, 46 million Americans are uninsured the article states. Before, the way an American would handle his/her health is going to the doctor and talking confidentially. There were no outside

influences such as insurance companies or the government. Insurance companies have gotten more control over the years.

With that in mind, of the money that the U.S government throws into the healthcare system, 20%-30% of that money goes to administrative costs. Articles state that if you included the profit margins of executives the percentage would be higher. Insurance companies decide whether you need a procedure or not. Not the doctor. Executives who have little to no medical background have their health in their hands. The United States has just thrown money into the healthcare system for years now and left it up to insurance companies to take care of America's health. Leadership is needed the articles states, someone or something to establish the precedent that healthcare is a right. The article goes on about how the United States throwing money at the problem is not going to fix anything and continues to list steps to make our healthcare more advanced. The author conveys that healthcare should not be seen as a for-profit business, but as a natural human right for all.

Reflection

Looking at the statistics stated by the article, every year the government has just thrown money into the healthcare system and over the years our system has not gotten any better. This makes me believe that the way the government can act and make healthcare better for all of us is to become the main provider of healthcare for all Americans and for government to establish the precedent that healthcare is a right.

I agree with the article because it does agree that everyone should have access to Medicare, and those who don't qualify can buy in. This gives leverage to the U.S government and so the

government can take control in negotiating lower prices. One thing I was not very clear about in the article is how much government can extend its reach in healthcare until it becomes like the insurance company system we have right now. Some external sources I looked at to better my understanding of the text are a list of the best healthcare systems in the world. This gave me a broader understanding of how every modern country is ranked in healthcare. It helped me understand the severity of the situation that the United States ranked last.

One thing I would say to the author has their proposal and steps reached congress. Have they put any effort into getting their proposal heard by lawmakers? This document answers my question, that the way we fix healthcare is with a precedent set by the government that healthcare is a right. That way we can lower drug prices, ER visit prices, etc. Have government control over healthcare.

Quotation

“As a country, we have strayed from common sense and become overcome with greed. Just as fire can cook our food and keep us warm, but can also destroy our homes, proper implementation of reform can help us, but improper implementation can destroy the system.”

Citation #3

“Why American Healthcare Is the Worst in the Developed World.” YouTube, YouTube, 17 Apr. 2020, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wO1IoKN0AkY&t=395s>.

Summary

Reiterating what the last two citations are saying that American Waste the most on health care per capita. We are not seeing a correlation though of more money, and better quality. Our

healthcare is subpar to other countries. A statistic stated by the video is that we don't even cover everyone. About 27 million Americans are uninsured. Even though people who are insured still struggle to pay their bills, almost 25% of Americans. 63% depleted their savings and 42% had to get another job. Getting in an accident can put someone in a bad place not even in a healthy way. Drug prices are way higher in this country than in most other countries.

The video goes more in-depth on how the system was before. There were only two insurance companies, and they never refuse anyone. The way it got bad was that employers started offering health insurance and the percentage of Americans who depended on insurance skyrocketed. Then businesses saw the opportunity in the industry. In 1980 the first for-profit hospital was born. These hospitals had big investors who drove up the price of every medical supply. By 1981, 1 in 7 hospitals was for-profit. The video also points out a crucial point. We have seen during the pandemic that medical supplies were not available. You would think that since Hospital is making all this money you would have availability of more supplies, but that isn't the case. Investors have taken the money and pocketed for themselves. The video ends with an interview with surprising Europeans about how bad our healthcare is.

Reflection

Do you agree or disagree with the text? Why or why not? Be specific! • Quote the text. •

Like the other article, I completely agree with what they are saying. The reason is that it explained what started the bad healthcare trend. "Hospital's transitioned from philanthropy to corporation was complete." The reason I agreed with. A question I have for this text is how can we stop hospitals from only focusing on profits. What I don't understand is based on saying "America is this way", does this mean we have to change our morals as Americans? Some

information that I did look up was how many hospitals now were for profit. The answer is about 1 in 4 now. One thing I would ask this author is whether the only solution to this problem is to get all American to agree on one moral, which is healthcare is a human right. What this document tells me is why my question is a question. How did healthcare get so bad that we need to start asking how we can make it better? The video gives me information.

Quotation

“America had taken the intensely cruel step of taking something sacred the health and well-being of its citizens and slapping a price tag on it”

Chain of events

Hospitals became a business (for profit) -> How has the government not helped -> Solution to fix it

Conclusion

Concluding my research, I have concluded that our healthcare system needs work. How can America, a nation founded on the principle of life, liberty, and happiness, haven't found a solution to ensure the health of its citizens? Doing this research, I discovered very alarming statistics. All my life I grew up with the idea that America was number one in everything. America is where you go to find the best care. Looking now, with the knowledge I found I can conclude that the U.S has not acted to better the health of its system. This can change. What I found in my research is the way the government can fix healthcare. How the government can help people get access to the best of care without having to suffer financially? In research, I found how it got to this point. The way it got to this point is a series of a chain of events.

Big businesses started seeing the green in healthcare. Due to that healthcare became a business and now only interested the investor in hospitals. The reason it has stayed like this is that the government thinks that just throwing money at the problem will solve it. Not since all that money usually goes to the private sector. The way we fix this is to have America be the hospital's number one customer. Let everyone in Medicare so that government has more bargaining power to negotiate down prices for us. The more influence government has hospitals are more likely to accept government terms. There must be a watch though because lobbying could be a big problem. We could end up with the same thing we have now. Having Government control we can have less administrative paperwork and thus reduce the cost altogether. What surprised me is how hasn't this Medicare for all bill passed. This could be beneficial to all Americans. Whose fault is it that we don't have this in action? What I learn is important because now we can see a clear solution.

Now we see what we need to do, and we need to enlighten these lawmakers on what is better for all Americans. The first people who need to hear this are lawmakers. With them having the most influence in what goes down in our country they can make a change. Signing things like the Medicare for all bills would be beneficial to all of us and have America move forward into the future.