

Dominic Padon

ENG 1121

U3 Multimodal

American Healthcare. What comes to mind when you think of that phrase? Probably what comes to mind are the news and stories of how the system is lopsided in terms of access and quality, the conundrum of high prices and the maze of requiring insurance and coverage. It's a very real issue that affects people in America that affects everyday citizens, including me. In December 2021, my mother was diagnosed with adenocarcinoma, more commonly known as lung cancer. It was a devastating piece of news, and especially confusing as my mother was never a smoker in her life. Of course, as soon as we heard the news as a family, we started reaching out to her doctors and some of our other personal contacts in an effort to get her the appropriate treatment. Soon enough, we started bumping into roadblocks that came wearing the faces of insurance and immigration status. Since my mother is an immigrant, insurance companies are not so eager to provide assistance, and we have to rely on state assistance to cover her medicine. In this struggle, I decided to ask how American society could improve upon the healthcare system here in America. This has been an issue that has existed for a while now, but my experiences with attaining care has been very anxiety-inducing and very stressful. This new and unexpected months-long struggle led me to ponder about the reasons as to why my mother was struggling to get insured healthcare in a country that boasted equal opportunities to achieve success and prosperity through hard work, determination and initiative. It seemed very strange and unfair, and it felt that we were just another statistic within a flawed system. I decided to research possible and existing ways that the American healthcare system could be improved upon. One of

the most promising things that came up in my research is a program in Illinois that allowed healthcare access to the elderly with no regard for their documentation status. This program, to me, feels significant as it shows that if people in power really took care of their citizens, real help and access can indeed be provided. This opinion of mine is further supported by the facts provided in a Time Magazine article that states that the American federal system is paying more than foreign countries all while having a lesser life expectancy, indicating that the exorbitant amounts being charged definitely do not equate to the quality that one would expect from the prices.