



Better healthcare is within reach.



GET THE FACTS ABOUT HEALTHCARE REFORM

We just implemented the most sweeping healthcare reform since 1965 (when we established Medicare) yet at least 30 million Americans still can't access or afford healthcare. *The impact is devastating.* Up to 44,000 Americans die each year simply because they cannot get the care they need, according to a Harvard study. While Obamacare increased the numbers of Americans who have health insurance policies, having health insurance is not the same thing as having health care.

Fact: Healthcare is *still* too expensive.

American businesses face healthcare costs of up to \$620 billion each year – money that could go to new product lines or employee raises! Costs are just as challenging for patients. “The...average deductible more than doubled in eight years, from \$584 to \$1,217 for individual coverage. Add to this co-pays, co-insurance and the price of drugs or procedures not covered by plans — and it's all too much for many Americans.” (USA TODAY). In 2016, these extra costs can go as high as \$13,700, *not counting premiums!*

Fix: Simplify administration & reduce costs.

A prime driver of healthcare costs is private health insurance and the inefficiency it brings, with *hundreds* of payers and *thousands* of insurance plans. By simplifying the healthcare transaction with a single payer system, like in Canada and France, we would dramatically reduce costs for employers, employees, doctors and hospitals. Administration expenses run 15 to 20% with private health insurers while Medicare – an existing American single payer system for seniors – has administration expenses of only about 2%.

Fact: Too many of us *still* can't get insurance.

In 2015 an estimated 5.6 million Californians remained uninsured. And even after full implementation of Obamacare in 2019, over 3 million Californians and over 30 million Americans will be uninsured. Millions can't afford to buy health insurance, even with subsidies, and millions more are locked out of the system by its complexity.

Fix: Automatically include everyone.

Universal health care, covering everyone *for life*, would increase Americans' healthcare security and financial stability. When the US established Medicare, poverty rates among people over age 65 dropped by 75%. Barriers to care, like narrow doctor networks, upfront costs and the complex insurance enrollment process would be eliminated. And the costs of care would be managed sensibly, with negotiated, predictable pricing.

Fact: The quality of care is *still* unequal.

The fact is, the more privileged among us get better care. People with more money and education, who live in the best zip codes, and who have the best jobs get the best healthcare. “If you live in Watts, your life expectancy is 72.8 years; if you live in Bel Air it's 84.7.” per Jim Mangia, CEO of St. John's Well Child, Forbes.com, 12/12/13. [This huge discrepancy in life expectancy is inconsistent with our values of equality.](#)

Fix: Provide excellent care to us all.

If healthcare were a shared public institution, like the fire department, every American would matter equally. We all have a stake in institutions that promote equity, whether we're talking about law enforcement or health care. We are constitutionally guaranteed the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Yet what is life without health? [Universal single payer healthcare promotes equality and fairness!](#)

Learn more:

- [Info on Medical Debt](#)
- [Middle Class crippled by medical deductibles](#)
- [High insurance admin costs even after ACA](#)
- [2016 Out of Pocket Costs](#)

- [Senior poverty reduced by Medicare](#)
- [American deaths due to no health insurance](#)
- [Uninsured Californians, 2015](#)
- [UCLA estimated uninsured Californians, 2019](#)
- [Health disparities by zip code: South LA v WLA](#)