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Why You Should Care About Universal Healthcare

1 out of 3 Americans live everyday not knowing if themselves or a loved one can get the medical attention they need in a life threatening situation (PBS). In the film *Where to Invade Next*, Michael Moore explores the world and steals ideas from other countries. Something basically every developed country but America has, is free health care (ProCon.org). This is one idea that I believe we should “steal” from other countries. One of the biggest issues in America today is the cost of health care. (ProCon.org) This is not a topic everyone agrees on. I believe it should be a human’s right to have health care, not a right to only those who can afford it. People are dying, people are in pain, and they can not do anything about it because they have no access to health care (Fogel). The importance of healthcare is seen as a necessity all over the world and it should be equally as important to our government. America should provide universal healthcare to its citizens because the current system costs too much and people are dying.

Many people avoid going to the doctors for checkups or immunizations because they can not afford it. This could lead to serious or even fatal conditions that could have been previously avoided (PBS). Some parents can not even afford to send their children to the doctors (PBS). Barack Obama once said “In a country as wealthy as ours, for us to have people who are going bankrupt because they can't pay their medical bills -- for my mother to die of cancer at the age of 53 and have to spend the last months of her life in the hospital room arguing with insurance

companies because they're saying that this may be a pre-existing condition and they don't have to pay her treatment, there's something fundamentally wrong about that.” (ProCon.org). Some other supporters of universal healthcare are Bernie Sanders, Pope Francis, and FDR. (ProCon.org).

Barack Obama created a health care system during his presidency called Obamacare (ProCon.org). In 2013, the White House estimated that 27 million previously uninsured people will gain health coverage with Obamacare. Although this is a big change in numbers, about 30 million people would still be without health coverage in 2016 (ProCon.org).

Citizens against free health care claim it would not work because taxes would be raised (Creech). Although, a poll was conducted by the New York Times and sixty percent of Americans stated they would be willing to pay significantly higher taxes for free health care (Creech). People pay taxes for schools, even if their children do not go there. What is the difference between paying for that and paying for sick people to get medical attention? (ProCon.org). People also say we should not have free healthcare because it will create longer wait times (Creech). Citizens in other countries say they can often still get same-day or next-day appointments (Khazan). People also claim they may not be able to see their preferred doctors anymore (ProCon.org). While this is inconvenient, some people are still unable to see a doctor at all (Khazan). Others are concerned it will take longer to see a specialist, but more people in Switzerland and the U.K. said they could see a specialist in four weeks or less than those in the U.S. did (Khazan).

It is inhumane to let people die and struggle because they can not afford to live. People with more money should not have any more right to live than poor people. "I've had MS for ten years. And my kind is like progressive. So I just get worse. I really can't do anything. I don't

leave my house." says Alicia Facchino, a woman living in the United States with no health coverage. She says her young children need to help her up and down the steps because she can not afford home care and can only get around in her wheelchair (PBS). Many other people have similar stories. These people must live in pain and fear for their lives every day and are unable to do anything about it because they can not afford health care (PBS).

Free health care in America is a debate that has been going on for far too long. Government funded healthcare was considered in forming the 1935 Social Security Act, but was never included, partially due to opposition from the American Medical Association (ProCon.org) In 1992, Bill Clinton proposed a national health insurance plan. \$100 million was spent by over 650 organizations in opposition to free health care, while only about \$15 million was spent by those in favor (Fogel).

In so many countries, they think healthcare is a right and it is made free to it's citizens. Many politicians in our government do not believe this and people die every day because of it. We have some systems in place such as Obamacare and Medicare, but many Americans are left uninsured. Will this ever change? Is free healthcare something America can achieve some day?

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