

Literature Review

-- Problems existing in American healthcare system

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Preventive Medicine

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The United States is the only developed country which hasn't implemented the civil hospitalization insurance into practice. President Obama has been continually giving great publicity to his new policies in the sphere of Health care system reform. Meanwhile, on the other hand, arguments about whether mandated health insurance is in violation of the Constitution, whether the founding of health care system corresponds with the Americans' basic spirit never comes to an end. So what exact reason it is that caused this nation that spends the most money per capita on health care, and has the most technologically advanced medical system in the world not being able to obtain the name of the healthiest society on earth?

I, Considerable factors effecting the course of the reform

To deepen the understanding of the problems in American healthcare system, the first thing we are supposed to be aware of is that the medical system is not entirely to blame since it has to batter against public health and cultural issues that go to the root of how Americans live. Strongly affected by the Americans' individualistic thoughts, the pursuing of nationwide mandated health insurance is doomed to be extremely rough. It is considered a violating of people's individual rights and personal freedom by the opponents of the policies in the sphere of Health care system reform.

II. Why a reform is indisoensable for American healthcare system

However, on the other side, it is indispensable for America to put the healthcare system reform into practice. Following reasons can illustrate this.

1. High costing

The costing of American healthcare system is so high that makes it a great burden to the American companies and families. “According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the United States spent more on health care per capita (\$8,608), and more on health care as percentage of its GDP (17.2%), than any other countries in 2011. The Commonwealth Fund ranked the United States last in the quality of health care among similar countries, and notes U.S. care costs the most. ”

2. Low quality

The quality of American healthcare system cannot be described as promising. According to a research conducted on studying the average expectant lifetime of people around world, as the most advanced medical technology and the most abundant medical resources America possesses, the average health level of people can be considered frustratingly low. “The United States life expectancy of 78.4 years at birth, up from 75.2 years in 1990, ranks it 50th among 221 nations, and 27th out of the 34 industrialized OECD countries, down from 20th in 1990. Of 17 high-income countries studied by the National Institutes of Health in

2013, the United States had the highest or near-highest prevalence of infant mortality, heart and lung disease, sexually transmitted infections, adolescent pregnancies, injuries, homicides, and disability. Together, such issues place the U.S. at the bottom of the list for life expectancy. On average, a U.S. male can be expected to live almost four fewer years than those in the top-ranked country.” “In a 2013 Bloomberg ranking of nations with the most efficient health care systems, the United States ranks 46th among the 48 countries included in the study.”

3. Low fraction of coverage

The low fraction of coverage of the American healthcare determines the necessity of the reform. “Enrollment rules in private and governmental programs result in millions of Americans going without health care coverage, including children. The U.S. Census Bureau estimated that 45.7 million Americans (15.3% of the total population) had no health insurance coverage in 2007.” It is obvious that this kind of extent of the healthcare coverage certainly is not able to satisfy both the society and the authorities.

Throughout the history, there are quite a few former presidents who once attempted to put a new look on the healthcare system but failed, including President Roosevelt, President Truman, President Kennedy and President Clinton. All the failures came as the result of being hindered

by Americans' inherent thoughts of liberalism and their pursuing of individualism.

III. What exactly the American healthcare system is like nowadays

According to the American scholar John K. Iglehart, the present American healthcare system is defined as "the managed care". It consists of the public departments, the private departments and the non-profit organizations in the primary form of private commercial medical insurance, making it the most complicated healthcare system on earth.

IV. Measures American government has taken to improve the system

American government and the insurance organizations have continuously improving the structure of the system by promulgating a great quantity of policies aiming to solve the existing problems in healthcare system, which includes the following steps:

1. The government plans to spend approximately 8710 hundred million dollars on the reform of healthcare system and accomplish covering 96% population in the coming decades.
2. Enhance the supervision of commercial insurance.
3. Make fiscal levy the most primary approach to affording the cost of reform, reducing the revenue of bourgeoisie groups to encourage them having themselves insured while increasing those of the highly-paid groups at the same time.
4. Improve the quality of the medical services.

V. Epilogue

The healthcare system is of great importance to all governments. It is the specific reflection of social justice. No matter how hard the process can be, throughout the experience of other countries with advanced healthcare system and the great efforts the whole country make, a solution to making better changes on American healthcare system is to be came up with. Nowadays, however, faced with both social and cultural issues, Americans still have a long way to go.

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