

Universal Healthcare Could Save Hundreds of Billions of Dollars Annually

By [Stephen Lendman](#)

Global Research, August 01, 2018

Region: [USA](#)

Theme: [Economy](#), [Science and Medicine](#)

According to Physicians for a National Health Program (PNHP), universal healthcare in America would save about \$500 billion annually – by eliminating insurer middlemen and the bureaucratic nightmare it creates for physicians and hospitals.

Individuals wanting coverage this way could still get it.

Under a single-payer system, a public or quasi-public agency would administer healthcare coverage and financing, while delivering it would remain private, patients free to choose their providers.

Because of insurer middlemen, along with lack of regulatory restraint on drug companies and large hospital chains, healthcare in America cost twice as much as in other developed countries.

Most nations have some form of universal coverage, not America under marketplace medicine – except for eligible Medicare and Medicaid recipients.

Hundreds of billions of dollars are wasted annually, unrelated to patient care – including insurers' overhead, underwriting, billing, sales and marketing departments, as well as huge profits and exorbitant executive pay.

Doctors and hospitals must maintain costly administrative staffs to deal with the bureaucracy, amounting to nearly one-third of annual healthcare costs.

No one ever visited an insurer to receive treatment for what ails them. Eliminating them would be a major cost savings.

Universal healthcare could provide everyone in America with all vital services – including medical and dental; prescription drugs and medical supplies; mental health and reproductive care, vision and optical services, hospitalization and preventive care, along with long-term care for the elderly, infirm and disabled.

Deductibles and co-pays would be eliminated, while coverage of this fundamental human right would improve, especially for the nation's most disadvantaged.

Lack of insurance and underinsurance for unaffordability reasons would no longer exist.

Healthcare rationing based on the ability to pay would disappear. Millions in America are uninsured or way underinsured under Obamacare. Trumpcare if enacted into law would be much worse.

When I finished graduate school in 1960, healthcare in America was 5.1% of GDP. Last year it was 18%, heading toward around 20% in 2020.

Since 1960, annual per capita healthcare spending in America increased a shocking 75-fold – from \$147 to an estimated \$11,193 in 2018.

In inflation-adjusted 2010 dollars, it rose from \$1,082 to the above estimated figure, around a 10-fold increase, still an enormous amount, making proper care unaffordable for millions of Americans.

According to a study by George Mason University's [Mercatus Center](#), a libertarian policy research think tank, Medicare for all would save about \$2 trillion over the next decade – a conservative estimate.

Likely triple this amount would likely be saved, yet \$2 trillion alone is a compelling argument for how healthcare in America should be provided – everyone in, no one left out, by eliminating bureaucracy, providing care to no one.

The Mercatus Center report explains the enormous administrative cost savings from a single-payer system, enabling far less costly first-class healthcare for everyone in America.

Citizens of the world's richest country deserve no less.

In the 1960s before his state-sponsored assassination, Martin Luther King said: "Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane."

Healthcare is a fundamental human right, essential to life and well-being.

It's not a commodity to be sold like toothpaste – based on the ability to pay.

Universal single-payer coverage would transform America's dysfunctional system into an equitable and just one – prioritizing human health over profits.

VISIT MY NEW WEB SITE: stephenlendman.org ([Home – Stephen Lendman](#)). Contact at lendmanstephen@sbcglobal.net.

My newest book as editor and contributor is titled "Flashpoint in Ukraine: How the US Drive for Hegemony Risks WW III."

<http://www.claritypress.com/LendmanIII.html>

The original source of this article is Global Research
Copyright © [Stephen Lendman](#), Global Research, 2018

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Stephen Lendman](#)

About the author:

Stephen Lendman lives in Chicago. He can be reached at lendmanstephen@sbcglobal.net. His new book as editor and contributor is titled "Flashpoint in Ukraine: US Drive for Hegemony Risks WW III."

<http://www.claritypress.com/LendmanIII.html> Visit his blog site at sjlendman.blogspot.com. Listen to cutting-edge discussions with distinguished guests on the Progressive Radio News Hour on the Progressive Radio Network. It airs three times weekly: live on Sundays at 1PM Central time plus two prerecorded archived programs.

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca

www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca