
Universal healthcare

Posted by NurseKeith - 2008/07/18 17:05

Are you in favor of universal healthcare for all Americans? If you're Canadian, do you think your system really works? Would you encourage Americans to buy into the notion that universal coverage is something to strive for?

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Re:Universal healthcare

Posted by dmazment - 2008/07/22 15:29

I am not convinced national healthcare is the answer. I'll admit I'm a hippy from the 60's and not liking the idea, government dictating my healthcare, along with everything else. I have friends in Canada who think their system is far less than stellar we Americans think it is. Horror stories over the long wait(sometimes more than a year) for crucial tests, then the wait for proper treatment. The USA is far more populated than Canada and many other countries throughout the world who have universal healthcare.

I'm also not convinced with the political agendas it would be carried out in a timely fashion, as the government tends to tie everything up in red tape. Can we wait 15 or 20 years for a system to be implemented? Can we be assured it will be a system responsible for good health care? There are just too many variables and no one can agree on any specific goal.

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Re:Universal healthcare

Posted by NurseKeith - 2008/07/22 20:56

Very true, very true. But what do we do with the uninsured, for instance? And how do we reign in costs? I have no answers, myself, only more and more questions.

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Re:Universal healthcare

Posted by dmazment - 2008/07/22 21:35

This will never happen, because we are a country built on capitalism, but I'm going to say it anyway. Revamp the entire government, get rid of lobbyists so insurance companies, instead of making huge profits, provide quality coverage, with affordable premiums, perhaps based on a sliding scale of what individuals can reasonably pay. Medical companies are also making huge profits, and then the hospital turns around and charges \$10 for an item that costs less than a dollar to make. It's a vicious cycle, all based on everyone making profits but also making our cost of living escalate. Make it profitable for companies to remain in the US, providing jobs for those who live in the US, instead of strengthening economies of other countries. Stop providing so much aid to other countries and take care of the US. I apologize if this is disjointed, but I'm simply typing as ideas come into my mind.

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Re:Universal healthcare

Posted by NurseKeith - 2008/07/22 21:43

As usual, you hit all of the salient points, my friend. Is profit, then, the root of all healthcare evil?

Disjointed? Not at all! Thoughtful? I don't think you could be anything but thoughtful!

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Re:Universal healthcare

Posted by dmazment - 2008/07/24 00:13

Part of this too, is money is power. Insurance companies, medical companies all have the power to shape direction of healthcare. CEO's who make huge salaries along with some who also have stock options. They have power too. Physicians have power and money, although medicine is not nearly as profitable as it was 30 years ago. Mostly because

of the formation of HMO's, but also some physicians ruined things for many because of greed. Then of course, we have the government and lobbyists, who also have money and power behind them.

We need a national nurse coalition, apprised not only of those with higher degrees but those of us who have ADN's. We are the largest workforce in healthcare, yet we have no power. If every single nurse, joined NNOC, stood together, for the betterment of our own group, we would have the power to make changes, be an integral part of healthcare direction and improvement for everyone.

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Re:Universal healthcare

Posted by NurseKeith - 2008/07/24 06:33

Yes. There is such potential for power in our numbers, but doctors are such a more powerful lobby. I wonder how many lobbyists the AMA has in Washington, DC? And how many lobbyists are on the payroll of the insurance industry?

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Re:Universal healthcare

Posted by dmazment - 2008/07/24 15:02

I don't know if there is anyway to find out how many lobbyists either the AMA has or insurance companies have. It would be interesting and valuable information to have. Yes they are powerful, but in a few years if nurses worked together, we'd be just as powerful

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Re:Universal healthcare

Posted by NurseKeith - 2008/07/24 15:04

So true! So true!

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Re:Universal healthcare

Posted by disappearingjohn - 2008/09/09 00:06

It has always amazed me at how little power we have as a worforce. We far outnumber the quantity of doctors in America, yet have no real voice.

That being said, I personally don't belong to the ANA due to my disagreement with many of their fees, as well as some of their political stances; so maybe I am as guilty as everyone else for fragmenting our voice...

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Re:Universal healthcare

Posted by dmazment - 2008/09/09 00:36

I advocate the NNOC rather than either the ANA or NLN. Both of those sad organizations have never brought about any positive changes I know in nursing care.

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Re:Universal healthcare

Posted by disappearingjohn - 2008/09/09 01:02

I had never heard of them, so I looked them up...

Sorry, I don't have any desire to join, promote, or associate with the California Nurses Union...

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Re:Universal healthcare

Posted by dmazment - 2008/09/09 02:49

this is your choice, but I'd like to ask you why not?

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Re:Universal healthcare

Posted by disappearingjohn - 2008/09/09 08:38

I've never been a huge union supporter. I grew up in Las Vegas during the time period that unions (well, actually corruption within the unions) almost destroyed the town...

I worked union once, a long time ago . All they did for me was collect their dues, and make it totally impossible for my bosses to fire an incompetent, dangerous employee, although he did get a nice, cushy job where he couldn't hurt anybody...(this wasn't nursing)

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Re:Universal healthcare

Posted by dmazment - 2008/09/09 15:10

John, all due respect, CNA has done a huge amount of good for nurses and patients. They have increased nursing wages, gotten better benefits, improved working conditions, worked to get a law passed for safe nurse to patient ratios. The CNA is not different than the AMA. I just ask you to keep an open mind. Another thing, how can we as the largest single entity of healthcare, get anywhere without solidarity?

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Re:Universal healthcare

Posted by disappearingjohn - 2008/09/09 20:04

I guess we respectfully disagree on a lot of points..

I think the CA Nurse staffing act was a huge mistake. Nurses gave up their most important power; assessment, to the legislature. I would much rather have a law like Washington, where every unit is required to have a mandatory ratio posted, decided by a hospital panel made up of at least 50% RN's. Acuity is important, not just the "type" of unit it is...

All the CA law did was make 1000's of hospital beds sit unused, and force CA to import hundred of foreign nurses (who instantly became union dues paying members of the CNA).

Yes, collective bargaining can achieve better wages and benefits, but at a price. The inability to get rid of incompetent workers without going through a prolonged "grievance" process, the inability to negotiate based on individual merit.

The AMA is no saintly organization, but they have no direct financial incentive from the labor of their members, at least not in the same way as a union does...

I agree we need solidarity; I just don't think a labor union is the way to get it...

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Re:Universal healthcare

Posted by disappearingjohn - 2008/09/09 20:10

As an added comment, we had a long discussion in a class for my RN-BSN last year about national organization and the

power nurses could have, that has me thinking about my reasons for avoiding the ANA.

My instructor (one of the board members of the state ANA chapter) said, "How can we know what your positions are, if you won't join, attend the meetings, and let your voice be heard..."

Kinda made some sense... (of course, I still haven't joined) so I guess I am as guilty as everyone else...

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Re:Universal healthcare

Posted by dmazment - 2008/09/09 23:11

Well you have your reasons. I wouldn't touch ANA or the NLN with a ten foot pole.

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Re:Universal healthcare

Posted by NurseKeith - 2008/09/12 19:25

We also need an Office of the National Nurse!

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Re:Universal healthcare

Posted by dmazment - 2008/09/12 20:32

Yes we do very much, another reason for the NNOC support

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