

Those Who Despise America – Part 2: Healthcare

by

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In the previous commentary, you were encouraged to leave the United States if you do not like living in America or are unwilling to support the American way of life.

We are a democratic republic which stands for the freedoms from tyranny. Yet, there are those in our nation who want America to become a socialist nation where our freedoms would be restricted and where our citizens would receive harsh punishment for speaking out and supporting those freedoms declared in our Bill of Rights.

The Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) have given 10 reasons why we need to become a socialist society, and yet have not presented any significant plan for achieving their goals. The reason for this is simple, they want power over the people. And as we have seen, socialist ideals do not work.

Their first primary goal is to change our current healthcare system to a universal system that is really no different from what we currently have except that it would be funded by higher taxes.

Healthcare

Socialist believe that healthcare should be available to everyone regardless of income. That is a great sentiment but very unrealistic and also lacks knowledge of our current healthcare system, and what universal healthcare systems provide.

Regarding universal healthcare, socialists want comprehensive care in 12 major services based on need rather than ability to pay. These include:

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|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Primary care | 7. Pediatric care |
| 2. Hospital care | 8. Dental care |
| 3. Prescription medications | 9. Vision care |
| 4. Mental healthcare | 10. Rehabilitation services |
| 5. Preventive care | 11. Long-term care |
| 6. Maternal and reproductive care | 12. Medical equipment |

For many of these services in the US, socialized healthcare already exists to some extent. For example, hospitals cannot turn away patients who come to emergency centers. Many cities across the nation have free or low-cost clinics for those at the low-

income level. Various charitable organizations hold free medical outreach events throughout the year.

In the US, there are two social medicine programs that, like universal healthcare, have specific qualification criteria. They are Medicare and Medicaid. Additionally, retirees usually have access to an employer healthcare program. For example, military retirees are eligible for Tricare and honorably discharged veterans are eligible for VA healthcare benefits.

Like the US, universal care systems also have various tiered systems and specific requirements in order to access these levels. Although universal care is supposed to be income free, in some systems, higher-income people can obtain faster access or more amenities.

A useful distinction is:

- Tiered access: different levels of service, urgency, or specialization (common everywhere).
- Two-tier healthcare: a public system plus a private system operating alongside it (common in many universal systems).
- Unequal care: differences in quality or outcomes based on income (a concern debated in many countries).

When ChatGPT was asked, “What are the US healthcare problems,” the response was:

The US healthcare system has several major challenges. The problems are about cost, access, and how care is organized.

1. High healthcare costs

The US spends more on healthcare per person than any other country.

- High prices for hospital services and medical procedures
- Expensive prescription drugs
- Administrative costs from dealing with many insurers and billing systems
- Higher payments to some healthcare providers compared with other countries

2. Insurance complexity

The US has multiple systems:

- Employer-sponsored insurance
- Medicare/Medicaid
- ACA marketplace plans

- Military and veterans' healthcare
- Individual private plans

This creates complexity:

- Different rules for different plans
- Confusing coverage decisions
- Prior authorization requirements
- Large amounts of paperwork

3. People still lack coverage

Some people remain uninsured because:

- They earn too much for Medicaid but not enough to afford private insurance
- They live in states with limited Medicaid eligibility
- They cannot afford premiums or deductibles

4. High out-of-pocket costs

- High deductibles
- Copayments
- Coinsurance
- Unexpected bills

5. Unequal access to care

Healthcare access varies based on:

- Income
- Location (especially rural areas)
- Insurance status
- Availability of doctors

And shortages of:

- Primary care doctors
- Specialists
- Dentists/Eye care
- Mental health providers

6. Prescription drug prices

- Patients often pay more for medications than many other countries.
- Patent protections
- Drug pricing practices
- Insurance negotiations

- Limited price controls compared with other countries

7. Administrative burden

- Insurance claims
- Billing departments
- Coding requirements
- Contract negotiation
- Compliance work
- Doctors spend more time on paperwork rather than patient care.

8. Preventive care and chronic disease

The US has high rates of some chronic conditions, including:

- Diabetes
- Heart disease
- Obesity-related illness

The system often pays more for treating illness than preventing it.

9. Mental health and substance abuse care

- Shortage of mental health professionals
- Long wait times
- Limited insurance coverage
- Difficulty integrating mental and physical healthcare

10. Healthcare is divided among many organizations

- Hospital systems
- Multiple insurance companies
- Separate specialists/Healthcare concierge services
- Multiple pharmacies
- Multiple medical records systems

How the US compares universal systems

- Strengths: faster access to specialists, advanced technology, leading research hospitals, many treatment options.
- Weaknesses: higher costs, complicated payment systems, and financial risks for patients.

On the surface, universal healthcare systems may appear more appealing to patients than the various systems currently in the US. However, when factoring in all the challenges of healthcare, the main difference between universal systems and those in the US is simply one of funding. With universal systems funding is primarily

accomplished through taxation, while in the US the funding is a combination of government (Medicare and federal/military retirement plans) and private resources.

When the average cost for US healthcare is compared to Britain's universal care system, a person with a \$100,000 annual income pays several thousands of dollars more than an American with the same amount of income.

Because of how it is funded, one major aspect, of universal healthcare that is not discussed is the question of "Why should I pay into a system that basically ignores personal responsibility?" The universal healthcare policies addressing patients who are engaged in activities that do not support quality health, such as smoking, drug and alcohol addiction, obesity, etc., vary from country to country.

Those socialists pushing for universal healthcare have only stated the problems with healthcare in the US, but have never presented concrete plans for resolving the various issues.