

Thesis: The United States should adopt a system of universal health care for its citizens.

Reason #1: The Constitution guarantees the right to “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”

Support (a): Quenton Davis (2010), a constitutional scholar from UCLA, published a paper in the Harvard Review tracing the many times Congress has taken action to protect the health of citizens in order that they may enjoy the life guaranteed by the Constitution. Davis writes: “If the U.S. Constitution does not guarantee health and life, then few other of its guarantees matter.”

Support (b): The Constitution does not pay attention to company profits when it comes to guaranteeing “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.” Historian Clive Wooten (2009) reviews the actions of the Government in times of national crisis that were taken to guarantee the general welfare. When there are 50 million American’s without health insurance and over 10,000 needless deaths per year, it is time to enforce constitutional measures.

Reason #2: To get our economy under control, we must control health care costs.

Support (a): The General Accounting Office puts health care costs at 17% of our gross national product. This is the largest item in our economy and has been increasing steadily since the advent of for-profit care. After 50 years of for-profit care, Sheridan (2012) writes: “It is clear that the bankruptcy of the U.S. is not a problem for for-profit health care companies. Either we stop them or they stop us.

Support (b): In a recent United Nations “Report on Global Health Care Costs,” the U. S. spends more than 18 times more of its national treasure on health care than any other nation, and yet we have the highest rate of uninsured citizens than any other nation. What is wrong with this picture? If the word “robbery” comes to mind, you understand what is wrong.

Reason #3: To end the suffering.

Support (a): The for-profit health care industry cares about money, not the people they serve. Children have been unhooked from dialysis machines because their insurance ran out. Middle-aged moms and dads have been denied life-saving procedures because of they underpaid a single premium by a few pennies, years before. Are these the actions of a moral and just society, or the actions of greed gone mad?

Support (b): The sick and the dying are not the only one who suffer. America is ranked #21 in the world for people who die of preventable diseases. Both Cuba and Croatia rank above us. However, the U.S. is ranked #1 in infant mortality (UN Global Report 2012). Now that is really something to be proud of.

Remember—for this week’s assignment, you must provide three separate reasons to support your position for or against health care. In addition to those three reasons, you must provide sources and details from those sources to support your reasons.