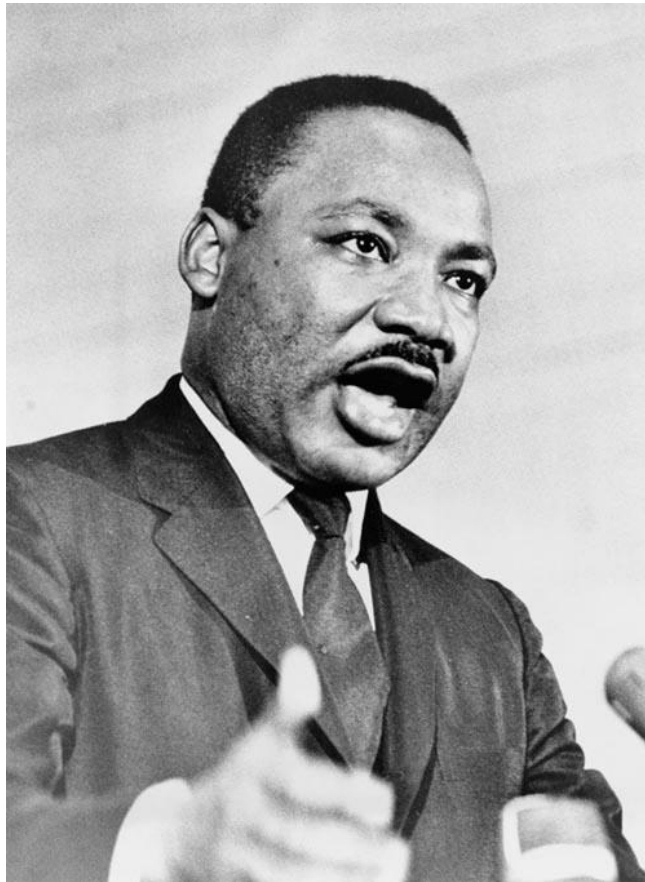


Health care for ALL—because all people deserve healthy, productive lives



“Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane.”



Are we there yet? What a good health care system should be

- **Universal**
- **Affordable for patients**
- **Sustainable for society**
- **Comprehensive**
- **Accessible**

"Now the truth is that unless you have what's called a single payer system in which everybody is automatically covered, then you are probably not going to reach every single individual..."

President Barack Obama
23 July 2009 press conference

Getting beyond the 2010 health care law



If your state can create a plan that
(1) covers as many people
(2) as affordably and comprehensively as the Affordable Care Act does
(3) without increasing the deficit...

you can implement that plan. And we'll work with you to do it.

-- 1 Mar 2011



Useful features of the health insurance reform of 2010

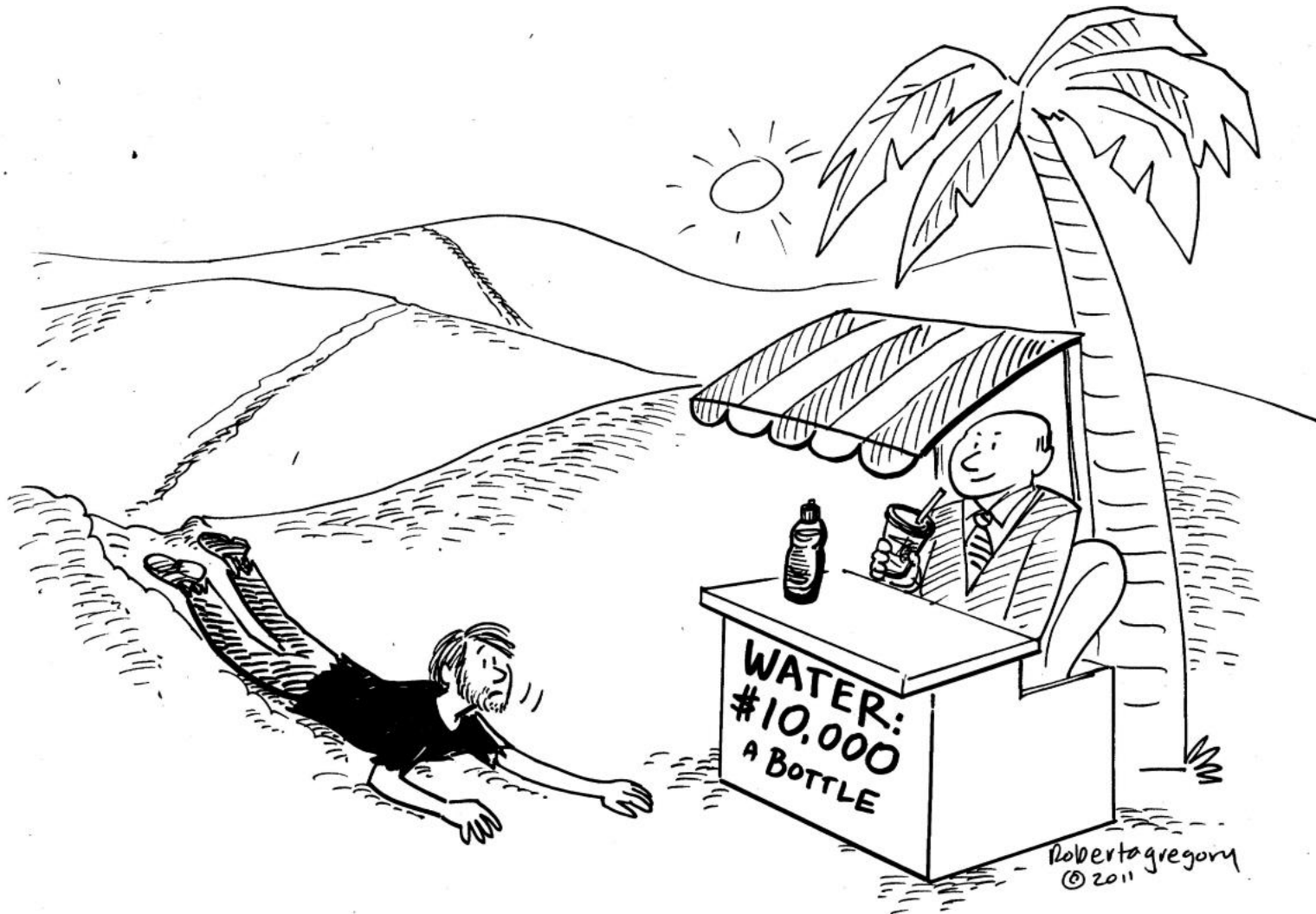
- Pre-existing conditions eliminated (2010 for children; and 2014 for adults)
- Young adults can be included on parents' insurance
- End of lifetime limits on coverage
- Medicare "donut" hole eliminated over 10 years
- Preventive care included in Medicare at no charge



Problems with health insurance reform

- Only 16,000 Americans (out of 6 million eligible) have chosen to pay current market premiums for the new 'high risk' insurance.
- 35 million or more will remain uninsured after 2017.
- Regulation is left to states, which means erratic oversight
- States allowed to offer higher Medicaid benefits, but few states can afford them.
- The private insurance exchange plans have four levels (platinum, gold, silver and bronze) of coverage, based on ability to pay.
- Older people will pay three times as much as the younger.
- Insurance companies can still deny claims at will.

The American Health Care Business Model



Water for much less than \$10,000 a bottle—sold at a profit



Bottled water
\$1

Water filters
\$20-\$50



Water jugs
\$3-\$8




Water bottles
\$5-\$25





Next legislative steps at the federal level

- The **State Leadership in Health Care Act**” (S. 73) sponsored by Sens. Sanders and Leahy of VT, will collect all the federal funding and use for financing coverage of state-based programs.
- The **Empowering States to Innovate Act** (S. 3958) sponsored by Sen. Wyden (D-OR) and Sen. Brown (R-MA), will enable states to bypass the requirements of PPACA and set up their own state-based programs.



What comes after the health care reform of 2010?

- The **One Payer States** coalition is a network of 14 states established to implementing universal coverage at the state level, until we get an Improved Medicare for All.
- **Vermont's** new Gov. Peter Shumlin and their legislature are committed to adopting state-based universal health care coverage.
- In WA State, **the Washington Health Security Trust** (WHST) HB 1096/SB 5609 has been introduced.
- **Improved and Expanded Medicare for All** bills have been reintroduced in Congress, HB 676 and HB 1200.



Washington Health Security Trust

- **Provides real comprehensive health care**, including medical, *dental*, vision, mental health, and more.
- **Free choice of practitioners**—no more Preferred Providers.
- **Lower drug prices** from negotiated bulk purchasing.
- **No denial of claims** for medically necessary conditions.
- **No deductibles.** Possible modest co-pays.
- Purchase of supplementary benefits is explicitly allowed.
- **Payroll deductions much less** than current premiums.
- **Employers would save** comparably in business expenses.
- **State and local districts would increase revenues** through savings.



Under WHST, who pays?

- **Those who don't pay (38% of the population)**
 - **Kids—1.604 million**
 - **People below 150% of poverty level—0.757 million**
 - **Excluded categories**
 - **Native Americans—0.085 million**
 - **Federal employees—0.142 million**
 - **Workers under the Taft-Hartley Act—0.106 million**
- **Remaining payers—4.057 million (62% of the population)**
- **Total—6.751 million**



Where does the money come from?

- **Business payroll taxes**
 - Tax on payroll over \$500K/year from 10% to 12%
 - Tax on payroll under \$500K/year from 1% to 1.2%
- **Taxes on individuals**
 - \$100/month to \$150/month for ages 18-64
 - \$75/month to \$100/month for 65 and over (to supplement regular Medicare)
- **Other state revenue sources**
 - State Health Services Account
 - Health Care Authority
 - Tobacco Settlement funds
 - Community Health Center Funding



Doing the math—low end

10%/1% payroll; \$100/\$75 individual

- Payroll tax revenue = \$10.58 billion
- Individual tax revenue = \$4.69 billion
- Other state revenue = \$4.80 billion

- Total = \$19.89 billion
- Estimated Fox report expenses by Method 1 = \$19.3 billion



Doing the math—high end

12%/1.2% payroll; \$150/\$100 individual

- Payroll tax revenue = \$12.69 billion
- Individual tax revenue = \$6.95 billion
- Other state revenue = \$4.80 billion

- Total = \$24.64 billion
- Estimated Fox report expenses by Method 2 = \$24.0 billion
- Estimated Fox report expenses by Method 3 = \$26.3 billion



Major obstacles to enacting single payer health care

- A majority of legislators, health care providers and the general public favors single payer, but think that it isn't actually possible to implement it.
- There is a great deal of inertia in the general public, due to the fact that since most people will never get expensively sick, they think that the insurance coverage they have is probably OK.
- Legislators are gun-shy. By passing single payer, they paint big targets on their backs, drawing hundreds of thousands of campaign dollars to throw them out of office. Why would anyone want to pass legislation which results in getting thrown out of office and having the legislation repealed?



Universal coverage is still possible – sooner, better and cheaper

Health Care for All-Washington

www.healthcareforallwa.org

email: info@healthcareforallwa.org

www.twitter.com/hcfawa

www.facebook.com/hcfawa

Physicians for a National Health Program's Western Washington chapter

www.pnhpwesternwashington.org

email: pnhp.westernwashington@comcast.net

United for Single Payer

<http://www.unitedforsinglepayer.org>

Labor Campaign for Single Payer Health Care

<http://laborforsinglepayer.org/>