

**Third Saturday Seminar, 21 March 2009, Lone Star College - Montgomery**

**The Problems Associated With Healthcare in America**

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**I. Cost**

- A. Healthcare spending rising 2% faster than the economy since 1970**
- B. 1/5 of US GDP goes to healthcare**
- C. 45 million (15%) of US citizens uninsured; millions are under-insured**
- D. Half a million patients/families file for bankruptcy each year**
- E. 20% of chronically ill patients account for 80% of healthcare costs**
- F. #1 cost driver – Americans are getting far too much unnecessary care**

**II. Who/What constitutes the US healthcare industry**

**III. Geography of healthcare**

**IV. Effectiveness of healthcare delivery**

- A. US healthcare costs more and delivers less than all but one European country**
- B. We rank 43rd in the world in infant mortality**

**V. Solutions**

- A. Information Systems**
  - a. Common medical record**
  - b. Evidence-based treatment**
- B. Single Payer System**
- C. Malpractice reform**
- D. Stop advertising drugs**

**Symptoms of an Ailing Health Care System**

Racial and ethnic disparities in health and health care delivery are pervasive.

Adult and childhood obesity are epidemic.

Prevention is overlooked and mental health discounted.

Public health suffers from years of political neglect. Spending trends are unsustainable.

Resources flood specialty care; resources drought afflicts primary chronic care.

Demands of process and profit marginalize patients.

Avoidable medical and hospital errors kill thousands each year.

Access to care is declining, uneven and unfair.

Tens of millions are uninsured or underinsured.

Variations in quality, safety, performance, and treatment are endemic.