

Healthcare Discussion Questions

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1. Most pundits are predicting that this congress will pass "A HealthCare Bill" this fall. They also say it will be less than what its supporters had in mind, and it will be cynically manipulated to squeak out the minimum 60 senatorial votes. Bipartisanship is de facto in the trash can. Doesn't have to happen that way but that's the way it's shaping up.
2. Well, 54% of us (only 2 percent made the difference) voted for Obama and Change and "Yes, We can!" Does anybody recollect hearing those changes defined? Do you expect to hear them now before they become the law of the land?
3. Do you really believe that any major reform can be written without major consequences unforeseen by the general public caused unintentionally by inexpert writers or stealth loopholes purposely slipped into the language by members and staff with special agendas?
4. Where will the money come from? What existing programs will be reduced or increased?
5. What is the real experience with the Massachusetts Plan?
6. Tort Reform has been enacted in 5 states. We don't hear about any reduction in insurance rates.
7. Does the bill described by the president resemble what's being debated in the House?
8. How much (\$) is "affordable" to whom? How does the public option plan work?
9. Does Americans (or human beings) have a "right" to good health or is it matter of a healthy public. (Policy)
10. I do not believe the healthcare is one of the rights acknowledged by the Constitution. But the question becomes a matter of law and resulting policy when legislative bodies pass laws that entitle some, they must entitle all
11. Must this be a federal law? Where are the States?
12. Local laws say Hospitals must treat people in need of it. Children must be vaccinated before going to school. People with infectious diseases can be quarantined. Foreign visitors suspected of carrying disease can be refused entry. What about health classes in school?
13. I am not a lawyer but it would seem that the equal protection provision of the 14th Amendment would apply to the application of the provisions of any law to any citizen and in many cases to any human being under the jurisdiction of the united States of America.
14. That is if there is a law that provides healthcare to anyone it should be applicable to anyone else. However, under the period of "Affirmative Actions" benefits were provided to certain classes based on some perceived need yet denied to other citizens who were deemed not needy enough. In this situation, poverty becomes the enabler for some and the denier for others.
15. How do people go into bankruptcy because of medical expense?
16. Is the Public Option in or out? Don't we have public and private colleges and universities compete in the same economy? Don't give up the Public Option until the Insurance, Medical practitioners, Universities, Hospital, Drug industries promised in writing, that accepts penalties for failure.
17. Tell me again what is the problem with single payer ("Medicare for all") approach. Saving in administrative

- costs alone could make it the most economical approach.
18. Define how competition would work on the part of the insurance industry.
 19. Why do we rely on employers to provide personal health coverage? Why do employed people have their insurance paid from Pre-Tax dollars yet individuals have to pay taxes on the money they pay for their insurance.
 20. We are 50th of 224 in longevity at birth according to our CIA
 21. 98,000 people die in hospitals of medical mistakes.
 22. \$60 billion - \$600 billion dollars in Medicare "fraud"
 23. Medicare Advantage is it Fair?
Medicare Advantage plans are privately run versions of the government's Medicare program, which provides health coverage for the elderly and disabled. The government subsidizes these plans, which offer basic Medicare coverage topped with extras such as wellness programs or low premiums.
 24. What about Charitable sources of healthcare?
 25. The origins of the Public Health Service can be traced to the passage of an act in 1798 that provided for the care and relief of sick and injured merchant seamen. The earliest marine hospitals created to care for the seamen were located along the East Coast, with Boston being the site of the first such facility; later they were also established along inland waterways, the Great Lakes, and the Gulf of Mexico and Pacific Coasts.
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USPHS#History>
 26. What about State, county and municipally provided healthcare services.
 27. Why promise that abortions won't be covered? Health of the mother? Rape and Incest?
 28. What about cosmetic surgery. Birth defects, restorative surgery, post mastectomy?
 29. The program must be defined in its entirety in terms of cost to the patient or his family (How much \$) how does the interface between the patient and the provider work. What are the guarantees? What is not guaranteed? What new agencies, authorities and Institutions will be created and funded. What about malpractice?
 30. Privacy and protection of digitized patient records. (Along with credit cards, police records.)
 31. President Obama says that illegal aliens cannot benefit from the healthcare reform law, yet at the same time he wants to grant amnesty (path to citizenship) to Illegals. Supposedly they could not participate for 5 years but how long do you think our politicians could withstand the demands of LULAC.
 32. Would we be so concerned if our economy wasn't in distress? If our reliance on foreign creditors wasn't so great? If our corporations hadn't absorbed so much of our future. to cover their negligent and incompetent failures to manage their businesses?
 33. If we "fix healthcare" will we all live happily ever after?
 34. Will we allow our governments to always keep us involved in some "global conflict" that will justify them exercising imperial powers and prerogatives, spending public money, putting our futures at risk for some mythical mission.

35. **DR. STEFFIE WOOLHANDLER:**
Well, the way to afford universal healthcare is to go to Medicare for all, also known as single payer, also known as nonprofit national health insurance. That's the way every other developed nation achieved universal healthcare. They spend less than we do. In fact, the

average for other developed nations is about half the per capita cost of healthcare that we have. People in Canada and Western Europe live longer. They don't have to worry about having medical bankruptcies because their health insurance didn't pay for things.