
Subject: Too true...

Posted by [John Macy](#) on Thu, 02 Mar 2006 04:16:00 GMT

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A man owned a recording studio in Texas. The Texas Wage & Hour Dept. claimed he was not paying proper wages to his help. They sent an agent out to interview & investigate the accusations.

Upon arrival at the studio the agents demanded, "We need a list of your employees and how much you pay them,"

The studio owner replied, "There's my main engineer who's been with me for 3 years. I pay him \$800 a week plus benefits."

The studio manager has been here for 18 months, "I pay her \$500 per week plus benefits".

Then there's the half-wit who works here about 18 hours every day and does about 90% of all the work around here. He makes \$10 per week, and I buy him a bottle of bourbon every Saturday night."

"That's the guy I want to talk to - the half-wit," says the agent.

Subject: Re: Too true...

Posted by [rick](#) on Thu, 02 Mar 2006 09:55:21 GMT

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that lucky sob has got me beat by about a buck a week...crap.

On 2 Mar 2006 14:16:00 +1000, "John Macy" <spamlessjohn@johnmacy.com> wrote:

>

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>he was not paying proper wages to his help. They sent an agent out to interview
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Subject: Re: Too true...Health Care: National Problem: Rant

Posted by [lamont\[1\]](#) on Thu, 02 Mar 2006 17:18:49 GMT

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That's funny :)

But, the reality is that big corporations like Walmart and others are not providing health insurance to it's employees. I'm an independent Consultant, and I pay for my family's health insurance and it's not cheap. It's really draining the budget. I really don't know how long we can keep this up. Thank God no one in the family has been sick or been in a bad accident.

As well as, I really don't understand people in this country who don't think the citizens of this country need a National health care plan(Aka Free!!)

This sick game btw the pharmaceuticals and the Healthcare providers and the health insurance companies who are using "We the people" as pawns for their greed and posturing. This can't go on any longer. Too many hard-working well meaning Americans are suffering without healthcare coverage.

On one hand I can understand companies in my neck on the woods (Motown) GM, Ford Chrysler who have for decades provided Top Tier health care for it's employees and retirees. No deductibles, no co pays..Nada ..But the Big 3's generosity has been the exception and not the rule of "So-Caled" Fortune 500 companies. Who have for years demanded that employees "payout" big sums of their income to (Aka: Pay for)pay for healthcare. So, with the Big-3 coming out stating that it can no longer provide Top Tier Health care any longer, they are not just "Blowing-Smoke". They are speaking the truth!!..

So, what do we do. Do we continue to play the "rich" Republican game of stuffing the pockets of Big Business insurance companies? Who, btw(health insurance companies)swear that they are being fleeced by both the Pharmaceuticals and the Hospitals. They, the health insurance industry for years have been victims of massive fraud from both small local clinics all the way to your largest hospitals. Pharmaceuticals companies charge hospitals 5 times the amount for a single pill!! Who then pass that cost of a single pill to you and I. It's madness of epic proportions. It's got to end. Most Americans are only all catastrophe away from wiping out a families assets.

Yes, my southern neighbor Canada had a rough start with it's National Healthcare system as well as Europe, but both have never "Re-tracked" the systems and both have smoothed out. Is it perfect? No, but is better than the mess we have now??

So, I wish poor working stiff's stop championing the "Rich" societies causes. Who's anti health care rhetoric has been: "Do you want your government" involved with healthcare?" Then chuckle(no no).. In case you missed it, the so-called middle class is shrinking daily, and

the divide btw rich and others(poor) is the widest it's ever been in the history of our nation. We are being "FLEECED" for the Rich and their coffers. Gas prices, home heating, electricity. All time highs. Even more, the rich do'nt care.

There was a time in America where by if you were rich and owned a company or corporation you felt an obligation to the common working man and woman. Now, you got boards in New-York calling the shots. Who's only mission is to "Return To Share Holder Value". Well, there's nothing wrong with RTSV. It's what free market is all about. it's very American. However, how much "Return is Enough"?? At what cost to the working stiffs is this affecting their "Quality of Life"?

Greed is alive and kicking in America. Like the Character in "Wall-Street" Gordon Geko: Greed is Good.. However, today there is Too-Much Greed.. And it's not Good.
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Subject: Re: Too true...Health Care: National Problem: Rant

Posted by [Deej \[1\]](#) on Thu, 02 Mar 2006 17:36:17 GMT

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Having had more than my share of experience with hospitals and the healthcare system in the last few years, I can guarantee you that the hospitals are charging higher rates to the insurance companies than they charge to individuals who are not covered by insurance, or whose policies don't cover the procedures. I'm getting ready to have to pay around \$10k in

fees to the Mayo clinic that my insurance company won't pay because they are considered to be over and above what the insurance company considers to be *reasonable*. However, had I had no insurance, I wouldn't have been able to even walk through the doors of the Mayo Clinic. I'm paying over \$1000.00 per month for health insurance for just my wife and me right now. I could raise the deductible and lower the premium, but considering the problems we've been dealing with here, the numbers really don't work to do that. I can certainly relate to your frustration and I'm sure you are worried about the care for your kids. It's a tough one. I'm definitely in favor of some kind of reform but I'm not sure that *free health care* will at all translate to *quality healthcare*. Mediocre-to-crappy healthcare might be quite a bit worse than high premiums if one of your family members happens to be a victim of it (though I really haven't been that impressed with some of the *expensive* healthcare we've gotten lately).

You do make some good points, IMO.

Regards,

Deej

"LaMont" <jjdpro@amertitech.net> wrote in message news:44071ae9\$1@linux...

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Subject: Re: Too true...Health Care: National Problem: Rant
Posted by [EK Sound](#) on Thu, 02 Mar 2006 18:33:25 GMT
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While the Canadian system of health care is far from perfect, I feel very fortunate indeed to be living here... especially when I read stuff like this. The upside to the US system is that if you need an MRI, you go down to the local clinic and get one... here the wait can be months.

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DJ wrote:

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Subject: Re: Too true...Health Care: National Problem: Rant
Posted by [excelav](#) on Thu, 02 Mar 2006 19:01:07 GMT
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FYI, there is a reasonably priced insurance policy called catastrophic health insurance. This insurance policy covers any cost over 10K. The idea is that if you were seriously injured or ill and you had a huge hospital bill it would cover every thing over 10K. Now that the fat cats in Washington have taken away Chapter 7 bankruptcy from we the people, a huge hospital bill could wipe your family out. with catastrophic health insurance, you could recover financially from a 10K hospital bill. Catastrophic health would be better than no health insurance at all.

James

"LaMont" <jjdpro@amertitech.net> wrote:

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Subject: Re: Too true...Health Care: National Problem: Rant
Posted by [Deej \[1\]](#) on Thu, 02 Mar 2006 19:36:22 GMT
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My *better half* back in the 70's was a native American lady from Simcoe Ontario. I was amazed at many of the the social programs available to Canadians back then. I met he when I was living in Mexico. There was big Canadian community there and they were all actually was having checks sent down there from Canada and lived there all winter on some kind of government subsidized unemployment. In the spring, we would all head back to Texas and they would all sort their travel arrangements out and head for their various spring/summer jobs. Then in the fall, they would come back down to Austin and we would head back down to Oaxaca. I was always jealous of this

situation. Everything was paid for.

As for the healthcare situation, I was watching some expose' on socialized medicine in Britain a while back and there is actually a provision for free elective cosmetic plastic surgery. If that's the case in Canada, I'm going to move up there so I can get that operation I've been needing so I can look more like Jessica Simpson.

;o)

"EK Sound" <askme@nospam.com> wrote in message news:44073bbe@linux...

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Subject: Re: Too true...Health Care: National Problem: Rant
Posted by [LaMont](#) on Thu, 02 Mar 2006 20:13:55 GMT
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Great points James..

"James McCloskey" <excelsm@hotmail.com> wrote:

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Posted by [EK Sound](#) on Thu, 02 Mar 2006 20:25:16 GMT
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snip

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Subject: Re: Too true...Health Care: National Problem: Rant
Posted by [Deej \[1\]](#) on Thu, 02 Mar 2006 20:31:20 GMT
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.....I'm thinking that plastic surgery should get more creative anyway.
What about using inflatable implants instead of silicon? That would allow
some pretty major creative license. With the right kind of engineering, you
could even have *presets*.

;oP

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>> ;o)
>>

> >

Subject: Re: Too true...Health Care: National Problem: Rant
Posted by [gene lennon](#) on Thu, 02 Mar 2006 21:11:47 GMT
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than do citizens in Canada, Germany and many other industrialized parts of

from breast cancer and are taking Tomoxifen to save their lives pay \$134
for a 30-day supply in my home state of Indiana and up to \$360 in other parts
of the United States, while in Germany they pay just \$60, and in Canada they
pay only \$33 for the very same product. Not only is that outrageous, it
is just plain wrong. I have held four hearing in my capacity as Chairman
of the House Government Reform Subcommittee on Human Rights and Wellness
regarding the safety and efficacy of imported pharmaceuticals. Despite clinging
to claims of the dangers of counterfeit and misbranded drugs, the pharmaceutical
industry as well as the FDA have been unable to cite a single incident of
adverse health reactions caused by Canadian imported FDA-approved prescription

This is a good read from:
http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mo08_emerson/pr_031028.html

This is from legislation proposed in 2003. Naturally, this legislation and
the two dozen other attempts to reign in profits, unfair trade policies and
tax breaks for pharmaceuticals have all failed.

From the same Press Release:

development of prescription drugs - for which we get little reimbursement
from pharmaceutical companies. The pharmaceutical companies get a dollar-for-dollar
tax credit. The pharmaceutical companies get a protected American market
that shuts out competition and keeps prices artificially high. What do American

gene

"LaMont" <jjdpro@amertitech.net> wrote:

>

>That's funny :)

>

>But, the reality is thatbig corporations like Walmart and others are not
>providing heath insurance to it's employees. I'm and independent Consultant,

>and I pay for my familys heath insurance and it's not cheap. It's really
>draining the budget. i really don't know how long we can keep this up. Thank
>God no one in the family has been sick or been in a bad accident.
>
>As well as, I really don't understand people in this country who don't think
>the citizens of this country need a National heath care plan(Aka Free!!)
>
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>This sick game btw the pharmaceuticals and the Heathcare providers and the
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>>"That's the guy I want to talk to - the half-wit," says the agent.

>>
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Subject: Re: Too true...Health Care: National Problem: Rant
Posted by [excelav](#) on Fri, 03 Mar 2006 01:12:10 GMT
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"DJ" <animix_spam-this-ahole_@animas.net> wrote:
>.....I'm thinking that p[lastic surgery should get more creative anyway.
>What about using inflatable implants instead of silicon? That would allow
>some pretty major creative license. With the right kind of engineering,
you
>could even have *presets*.

>

>;oP
>

That has existed for years. A small incision under the armpits and you can pump them up.

James

>"EK Sound" <askme@nospam.com> wrote in message news:440755f4@linux...

>> I don't think that much plastic exists... :-p

>>

>> David.

>>

>> DJ wrote:

>>

>> snip

>>

>>

>> > As for the healthcare situation, I was watchfing some expose' on

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>> >

>> >

>

>

Subject: Re: Too true...Health Care: National Problem: Rant

Posted by [excelav](#) on Fri, 03 Mar 2006 01:14:52 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

"DJ" <animix_spam-this-ahole_@animas.net> wrote:

>My *better half* back in the 70's was a native American lady from Simcoe

>Ontario. I was amazed at many of the the social programs available to

>Canadians back then. I met he when I was living in Mexico. There was big

>Canadian community there and they were all actually was having checks sent

>down there from Canada and lived there all winter on some kind of government

>subsidized unemployment. In the spring, we would all head back to Texas

and

>they would all sort their travel arrangements out and head for their various

>spring/summer jobs. Then in the fall, they would come back down to Austin
>and we would head back down to Oaxaca. I was always jealous of this
>situation. Everything was paid for.

>

>As for the healthcare situation, I was watching some expose' on socialized
>medicine in Britain a while back and there is actually a provision for free
>elective cosmetic plastic surgery. If that's the case in Canada, I'm going
>to move up there so I can get that operation I've been needing so I can
look

>more like Jessica Simpson.

>

>;o)

>

Deej, if you got the wrong guy you could come out looking like S.C.S!

>"EK Sound" <askme@nospam.com> wrote in message news:44073bbe@linux...

>> While the Canadian system of health care is far from perfect, I feel
>> very fortunate indeed to be living here... especially when I read
>> stuff like this. The upside to the US system is that if you need an
>> MRI, you go down to the local clinic and get one... here the wait can
>> be months.

>>

>> David.

>>

>> DJ wrote:

>> > Having had more than my share of experience with hospitals and the
>> > healthcare system in the last few years, I can guarantee you that the
>> > hospitals are charging higher rates to the insurance companies than
they

>> > charge to individuals who are not covered by insurance, or whose
>policies

>> > don't cover the procedures. I'm getting ready to have to pay around
\$10k

>in

>> > fees to the Mayo clinic that my insurance company won't pay because
they

>are

>> > considered to be over and above what the insurance company considers
to

>be

>> > *reasonable*. However, had I had no insurance, I wouldn't have been
able

>to

>> > even walk through the doors of the Mayo Clinic. I'm paying over \$1000.00
>per

>> > month for health insurance for just my wife and me right now. I could

>raise
>> > the deductible and lower the premium, but considering the problems we've
>> > been dealing with here, the numbers really don't work to do that. I
can
>> > certainly relate to your frustration and I'm sure you are worried about
>the
>> > care for your kids. It's a tough one. I'm definitely in favor of some
>kind
>> > of reform but I'm not sure that *free health care* will at all translate
>to
>> > *quality healthcare*. Mediocre-to-crappy healthcare might be quite a
bit
>> > worse than high premiums if one of your family members happens to be
a
>> > victim of it (though I really haven't been that impressed with some
of
>the
>> > *expensive* healthcare we've gotten lately).
>> >
>> > You do make some good points, IMO.
>> >
>> > Regards,
>> >
>> > Deej
>> >
>
>

Subject: Re: Too true...Health Care: National Problem: Rant
Posted by [Deej \[1\]](#) on Fri, 03 Mar 2006 02:16:37 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Phil,

Interesting. What is DRG? I have had a number of doctors flat out tell me that their rates for treatment are less if it's not covered by insurance. I've even seen rate sheets at one chiropractors office showing non-insured vs insured rates.

Regards,

Deej

"Phil Aiken" <paiken@partners.org> wrote in message news:44079a8d\$1@linux...
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> Most insurance companies pay either based on DRG, or capitation, loosely
> meaning respectively that they pay a flat rate per patient either by
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> the patient, though they are paid pennies on the dollar, as the amount of
> bad debt that gets written off to individuals is a pretty high percentage.
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> There are more hospitals losing money than making money right now.
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> If I'm sounding like the Cliff Clavin of health care:
> When I'm not playing piano and recording I'm a software engineer for the
> parent corporation of 2 of the largest hospitals in the U.S.
>
>
>

Subject: Re: Too true...Health Care: National Problem: Rant
Posted by [Phil Aiken](#) on Fri, 03 Mar 2006 02:23:25 GMT
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"DJ" <animix_spam-this-ahole_@animas.net> wrote:

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Subject: Re: Too true...Health Care: National Problem: Rant
Posted by [Dedric Terry](#) on Fri, 03 Mar 2006 03:28:04 GMT
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So true. If nothing else, we've cornered the market for greed.

We're self-employed to, and have either paid more than we could afford, had less coverage than we could afford should something happen, or gone without for most of the past ten years. I pray everyday nothing happens or we'll be done in a heartbeat.

I guess that's the new American reality - living one step away from financial catastrophe. Corporations have forgotten who they serve - people - and so has much of our country. Pharmaceutical companies aren't struggling, oil companies post record profits even when a hurricane hits a home run in their backyard (that's what I call serious insurance), "reality" TV is booming, and more people have to give up health care and go into debt. Webster doesn't need to define the word irony any more.

The American dream may eventually become an American tragedy.

Regards,
Dedric

On 3/2/06 10:18 AM, in article 44071ae9\$1@linux, "LaMont"
<jjdpro@amertitech.net> wrote:

>
> That's funny :)
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> But, the reality is that big corporations like Walmart and others are not
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Subject: Re: Too true...Health Care: National Problem: Rant

Posted by [Phil Aiken](#) on Fri, 03 Mar 2006 04:01:10 GMT

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DRG is sort of an uber-diagnosis.....if you're say a kidney patient with chronic problems, they end up paying for your care over time as that certain type of patient as opposed to each individual visit for whatever symptoms or treatment you need.

This is an oversimplification, but that's the general idea.

Note that I was speaking about large payors and large hospitals, where the physicians have very little to do with the actual billing. These are contracts worked out for the high volumes of patients/dollars involved. It would indeed be very different for an independent or unaffiliated provider, or possibly even for a smaller hospital, so what you were told rings true.

"DJ" <animix_spam-this-ahole_@animas.net> wrote:

>Phil,

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>Interesting. What is DRG? I have had a number of doctors flat out tell me

>that their rates for treatment are less if it's not covered by insurance.

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>
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Subject: Re: Too true...Health Care: National Problem: Rant
Posted by [Bill Lorentzen](#) on Fri, 03 Mar 2006 04:36:30 GMT
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In this thread some of you have wished we had "free" health care like other nations. You do realize there is no such thing as free health care? You would pay for it in your taxes, and remember this: Anything the government gives you costs twice as much and works 1/2 as well as if you bought it from another plain old citizen. I don't want national health coverage - I want quality health care availability.

The other thing to remember is that if you are like me and almost never get sick, you will be paying extra for the people who get sick a lot.

Bill

"Dedric Terry" <dterry@keyofd.net> wrote in message
news:C02D05D4.1834@dterry@keyofd.net...

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Subject: Re: Too true...Health Care: National Problem: Rant
Posted by [LaMont](#) on Fri, 03 Mar 2006 06:23:22 GMT
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Well put my friend.Well put..

The Irony of this great American tragedy is that "everyone" in this country is acting as if nothing's haapening to our way of life! or, maybe we all feel "powerless" & helpless.

I say the truth even if it hurts.

For the last 10 years while ordinary working stiffs were fightig , grappling, whining about stupid issues(that were manufactured by our elected gov officials, lead by Big Business) Issues, like race, creed, budget deficit, abortion,school prayer, blow jobs in the whitehouse...The keepers of the gate were "fleecing" raping, piliging our \$\$coffers. They have reinvented the word "Distractions".. Now, here we all are (White, Brown, Black, Red, Yellow People of a Color and Americans) feeling like we've been raped with out the petroleum jelly. Yep, we bought in to every frickin issuea(diversion) they could muster up. Now, look at us all.. ??

Race was never the issue. The keepers of the \$\$\$ coffers used this nasty trick as a covert "diversionnary" tool to always keep the comoon/poor whites thinking that all the ills of our nations is the cause by Blacks and other

non-whites. While the common white american is busy hatyng balcks and others, the Keepers of the \$\$\$ gate could do as they pleased. Almost blameless & shameless. But, it seems that just like in todays times, Greed set in and the it became very obvious to the common american that "they were not getting a piece nor a fair shair of the pie.

Thus, this spured organized labor movement. An attempt for the common american to gain at least a digified wage and provide a decent living for his family.

People died trying to organize the first unions. Why??

Fast forward:Bigbusiness never liked unions and waged a very sucessfull anti-union campaigns. Again, using tried and tried tactics that has works for decades.

They went to the non union stated and put on a their "happy-faces" and convinced poor southern whites nd blacks that "we are as bad as those unions up north make us out to be. "Now, we can't pay you what they are making, and we can't provide the same bennfits because, it's those union contracts up north are taking too much of the pie...

Now, you got sothern poor whites and blacks and mexicans conviced that unions are bad. Taochey for Big Business.

Now, the friuts of big business labor is the Walmarts, Saturns of this world who are union less and make lot money with no to little bennifits. BUT!, let's not forget about the "new mellinium" Samll -Business Owner scam. So, by 1995, eveyone wanted to be a "small-Business owner..Hey, who does'nt..? But, as soon as most thinking -forward americans started their LLC's, and S-corps, our goverment started 'changing" tax laws that no- longer benniffitted small-business. Even more,A small business struggled to provide health-care for it's family and employees. Uhhohh!! Now what do they (Smallbusiness's do??) By 2001, the Gove, made getting SBL's harder and harder, then came the death blow..Just last year, our same beloved Gov re-wrote the backrupties laws.boom!!!! Now, Small business ,saddle in debit, double minumum paments due on maxed-out credit cards. That corporate SUV you purchaed or leased is aliabilty with gas prices where they are.. All of this going on.. But, this is why I love this country and better, the people of this country.

The national media can't seem to understand why it's been 5 years after 911, and as a whole, we could care less what the President is doing abouthe the war and IRaq,Bin-laden.. They do'nt get it. !! When GM, Ford, Chrysler, ATT, IBM and other companies annouce to the free world that they will be Firing 20,30, 40, 50,60 thousand people!11 , who gives a flying f!@#\$\$ what Sadamm is saying or the lastest BinLaden tape, ports..Scew it!! is the feeling from us (we the people).. Really, over 200 thousand folks have been or shortly will be Fired from their jobs this year. Do you think they really give a hoot about that political mumo jumbo>??

What we do care about is our families financial well being. Not a war, not whos posturing for the next election or judges. But, rather, can me or ny child get that badly needed operation.will I be thrown out of my home?, I

guess the repo man will come and get the car.? I gusee we'lkl have to tell the kids that we can;t help them with their college tuition. ??
Yep..I fel as you all do now..I feel let down. Yep, i bought into the dream and now, I'm seeing the dream of millions dye slowly everyday. God help us all. I see the look of utter frustration and dispair and hoplessness inthe faces of ordinary people. yes, we all are trying to put our best face on and act as if nothing has changed or better, we act as if we are not affected by the fleecing. I feel bad for us ordinay Americans, I realy do. We trusted in a ysystem that promised "If you work hard, keep you nose clean, you can live the dream. Well mr gazillionar corprarion, we worked hard, some of us got the education, and paid our taxes even when you never paid a sigle cent of tax. But, here we are being asked to continue to line up you coffers while you give us NOTHING\$\$\$ in return..

Dedric Terry <dterry@keyofd.net> wrote:

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Subject: Re: Too true...Health Care: National Problem: Rant

Posted by [Dedric Terry](#) on Fri, 03 Mar 2006 06:40:11 GMT

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Free isn't necessarily the need - just affordable. If I can't afford health insurance, how can I afford health care? When my wife had our daughter in May last year, a simple IbuProfren/Tylenol was \$25, for one, not a case. For sure, doctors should be paid for a very demanding and life-critical job, but we aren't talking about reasonable and customary - we are talking defense contract bilking absurdities that, if properly and reasonably managed, could in fact reduce health care costs significantly. Instead everyone in the industry - insurance companies, hospitals, pharmaceutical companies, etc - are fighting each other in a vicious circle to stay ahead of each others' "costs". Who is in the middle? Us. The consumer, the US citizen, the patient.

You are right that we pay for it either way, but right now, we are paying for a free health care system and a paid health care system and getting neither. Most people can't afford it, so Medicaid and Medicare are absorbing probably 50% of the costs charged to health care.

The more you charge, the more you charge seems to be the motto in this and many other industries now. The real disease is in how we think as a culture, not how the government operates - it's so easy to blame the government for everything from hurricanes to a paycheck that doesn't meet expectations. However, people run these companies. People make the decisions. Not "the man", but "the people". Get the people on the right track and everything else falls into place, government included - actually that should never be first on anyone's list of reasons for their state in life - it's a bad place to be as "government" will never make anyone truly happy or secure.

Regards,
Dedric

On 3/2/06 9:36 PM, in article 4407c92c@linux, "Bill Lorentzen" <bill@lorentzen.ws> wrote:

> In this thread some of you have wished we had "free" health care like other
> nations. You do realize there is no such thing as free health care? You
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> "Dedric Terry" <dterry@keyofd.net> wrote in message
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Subject: Re: Too true...Health Care: National Problem: Rant
Posted by [LaMont](#) on Fri, 03 Mar 2006 06:55:45 GMT
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Bill, that's the kind of thinking that billionar prpoganda they spew out to convince us that free health care would be abad idea.

You are right, it not free,but rather, it's our money This is still our nation.. They(the Gov)work for us. Not, we work for them. You can forget aboutt 'affordable' & quality. Do you really think that doctors will perform thier best when they too are beeing "fleeced"??

To me and others, the word free is a play on words. How can it be labled free , when we 've already paid for it.???

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Subject: Re: Too true...Health Care: National Problem: Rant
Posted by [Dedric Terry](#) on Fri, 03 Mar 2006 07:13:32 GMT
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Your points are good, but I think I may be seeing it from a different side
of the same box:

It isn't government that is to blame - that's too easy - it's our culture
and who we are as people. People run businesses. People work in

government. People listen to the noise and think it's the gospel truth. Without stopping the vicious cycle of greed, raising prices to clear more profit on top of someone else's attempts to do the same (insurance vs. drug companies vs. medical community), costs will continue to spiral upward. The only solution is for everyone to take a hit in the profit margin and agree to meet the broadest standard of living of the country, not the most profitable.

All of the social issues are also distractions we create and allow. Sure politicians harp on them, but why? Because the people who put them in office - voters and special interest groups with a loud voices and voter sway - spend time keeping their pet issues in the public's ear, whether they really need attention or not. So we hear what politicians think will get them elected, and we vote based on that. We also spend personal time concerned with issues that aren't going to save starving people in 3rd world countries. It's the case of "my problem is my world" instead of "it's our world, maybe my problem isn't a big deal after all". A free market, consumer based society unfortunately breeds a self centered mentality, and hence we get greed increasing daily. If we were a people of community/world mindedness and true selfless action, we would probably be having a very different, more optimistic conversation. Just think what we could be doing for countries like Sudan and Ethiopia if we were that kind of nation.

Unions at times have had their place - for underpaid laborers in countries or businesses with poor or no safety and wage laws and ethics. But having worked in businesses with unions, and seen how they operate in other businesses, they aren't always the common-good protectors they once may have seemed. They have a very strong political presence, needless to say, and it isn't all about better wages for \$40/hr assembly line workers that pay significant dues for the right. E.g. In Massachusetts, a police or highway patrol officer is required by law (passed due to efforts from law enforcement unions) to be present at every construction site, accruing off-duty pay - often triple time as much work there is done overnight and weekends. One police chief in a local town made 6 figures - over twice his salary - simply for sitting at a road construction sites, even if it was in a one-house cul-de-sac with no traffic to direct (and they never do anyway). Who pays for this? Tax payers in higher income, gas, and sales taxes, and road tolls, even for roads that are paid for.

There was no proven safety need and actually is often causes more traffic problems than it solves as they are just sitting in cars with lights flashing - it was well know that it was just a union perk. When organizations truly work for the common good, then their value is self-evident. But when the purpose is to bully one another until someone cries uncle, that purpose is diminished to nothing more than a power struggle.

I see your point for sure - abusing labor is inexcusable, but abusing the

power of an organization is equally as inexcusable. Until the greed stops, the bleeding will continue. None of this would be necessary if we had half an ounce of integrity as a people.

Regards,
Dedric

On 3/2/06 11:23 PM, in article 4407d2ca\$1@linux, "LaMont"
<jjdpro@ameritech.net> wrote:

>
> Well put my friend.Well put..
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> The Irony of this great American tragedy is that "everyone" in this country
> is acting as if nothing's haapening to our way of life! or, maybe we all
> feel "powerless" & helpless.
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> I say the truth even if it hurts.
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> "Distractions"..
> Now, here we all are (White, Brown, Black, Red, Yellow People of a Color
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> to gain at least a digified wage and provide a decent living for his family.
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> Fast forward:Bigbusiness never liked unions and waged a very sucessfull
> anti-union
> campaigns. Again, using tried and tried tactics that has works for decades.
> They went to the non union stated and put on a their "happy-faces" and

> convinced

> poor southern whites and blacks that "we are as bad as those unions up north

> make us out to be. "Now, we can't pay you what they are making, and we can't

> provide the same benefits because, it's those union contracts up north are

> taking too much of the pie...

>

> Now, you got southern poor whites and blacks and Mexicans convinced that unions

> are bad. Tailor for Big Business.

>

> Now, the fruits of big business labor is the Wal-marts, Saturns of this world

> who are union less and make a lot of money with not too little benefits. BUT!

> let's not forget about the "new millennium" Small-Business Owner scam. So,

> by 1995, everyone wanted to be a "small-Business owner..Hey, who doesn't..?

> But, as soon as most thinking-forward Americans started their LLC's, and

> S-corps, our government started "changing" tax laws that no longer benefited

> small-business. Even more, a small business struggled to provide health-care

> for its family and employees. Uh-hohh!! Now what do they (Small business's

> do??) By 2001, the Gov, made getting SBL's harder and harder, then came

> the death blow..Just last year, our same beloved Gov re-wrote the bankruptcy

> laws.boom!!!! Now, Small business, saddle in debt, double minimum payments

> due on maxed-out credit cards. That corporate SUV you purchased or leased

> is liability with gas prices where they are.. All of this going on.. But,

> this is why I love this country and better, the people of this country.

>

> The national media can't seem to understand why it's been 5 years after 9/11,

> and as a whole, we could care less what the President is doing about the

> war and Iraq, Bin-Laden.. They don't get it. !! When GM, Ford, Chrysler, ATT,

> IBM and other companies announce to the free world that they will be firing

> 20,30, 40, 50,60 thousand people!11, who gives a flying f!@#\$# what Saddam

> is saying or the latest BinLaden tape, ports..Scow it!! is the feeling from

> us (we the people).. Really, over 200 thousand folks have been or shortly

> will be fired from their jobs this year. Do you think they really give a

> hoot about that political mumbo jumbo>??

>

> What we do care about is our families financial well being. Not a war, not

> who's posturing for the next election or judges. But, rather, can me or my

> child get that badly needed operation.will I be thrown out of my home?, I

> guess the repo man will come and get the car.? I guess we'll have to tell

> the kids that we can't help them with their college tuition. ??

> Yep..I feel as you all do now..I feel let down. Yep, I bought into the dream

> and now, I'm seeing the dream of millions die slowly everyday. God help us

> all. I see the look of utter frustration and despair and hopelessness in the

> faces of ordinary people. yes, we all are trying to put our best face on

> and act as if nothing has changed or better, we act as if we are not affected

> by the fleecing. I feel bad for us ordinary Americans, I really do. We trusted

> in a system that promised "If you work hard, keep your nose clean, you can

> live the dream. Well Mr gazillionaire corporation, we worked hard, some of us

> got the education, and paid our taxes even when you never paid a single cent

> of tax. But, here we are being asked to continue to line up you coffers
> while you give us NOTHING\$\$\$ in return..
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>> We're self-employed to, and have either paid more than we could afford,
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>> less coverage than we could afford should something happen, or gone without
>> for most of the past ten years. I pray everyday nothing happens or we'll
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>> I guess that's the new American reality - living one step away from
>> financial catastrophe. Corporations have forgotten who they serve - people
>> - and so has much of our country. Pharmaceutical companies aren't
>> struggling, oil companies post record profits even when a hurricane hits
> a
>> home run in their backyard (that's what I call serious insurance), "reality"
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>>> That's funny :)
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>>> But, the reality is thatbig corporations like Walmart and others are not
>>> providing heath insurance to it's employees. I'm and independent Consultant,
>>> and I pay for my familys heath insurance and it's not cheap. It's really
>>> draining the budget. i really don't know how long we can keep this up.
> Thank
>>> God no one in the family has been sick or been in a bad accident.
>>>
>>> As well as, I really don't understand people in this country who don't
> think
>>> the citizens of this country need a National heath care plan(Aka Free!!)
>>>
>>>
>>> This sick game btw the pharmaceuticals and the Heathcare providers and
> the
>>> healthinsurance companies who are using "We the people" as pawns for their

>>> greed and posturing. This can't go on any longer. Too many hard-working
> well
>>> meaning Americans are suffering without healthcare coverage.
>>>
>>> On one hand I can understand companies in my neck on the woods (Motown)
>>> GM, Ford Chrysler who have for decades provided Top Tier health care for
>>> it's employees and retirees. No deductibles, no co pays..Nada ..But the
> Big
>>> 3's generosity has been the exception and not the rule of "So-Caled" Fortune
>>> 500 companies. Who have for years demanded that employees "payout" big
> sums
>>> of their income to (Aka: Pay for)pay for healthcare. So, with the Big-3
> coming
>>> out stating that it can no longer provide Top Tier Health care any longer,
>>> they are not just "Blowing-Smoke". They are speaking the truth!!..
>>>
>>> So, what do we do. Do we continue to play the "rich" Republican game
> of
>>> stuffing the pockets of Big Bussinees insurance companies?
>>> Who,btw(heathinsureance
>>> companies)swear that they are being fleeced by both the Pharacuticals
> and
>>> the Hospitals. Thy, the health insurance industry for years have been
> victims
>>> of massive fraud from both small local clinics all the way to your largest
>>> hospitals. Pharmaceuticals compnies charge hositals 5 times the amount
> for
>>> a single pill!! Who then pass that cost of a single pill to you and I.
>>> It's maddness of epic porportions. It's got to end.
>>> Most americans are only all castastrophe away from wiping out a families
>>> assett's.
>>>
>>> Yes, my southeren neighbor Canada had a rough start with it's National
>>> Heathcare
>>> system as well as Euroup, but both have never "Re-tracked" the systems
> and
>>> both have smoothed out. Is it perfect? No, but is better than the mess
> we
>>> have now??
>>>
>>> So, I wish poor working stiffs stop championing the "Rich" societies causes.
>>> Who's anti heath care rhetoric has been: 'Do you want your goverment"
>>> involved
>>> with healthcare?" Then chuckle(no no)..
>>> In case you missed it, the so-cald middle class is shrinking daily,a
> nd
>>> the divide btw rich and others(poor) is the wideset it's ever been in
> the

>>> history of our nation. We are being "FLEECED" for the Rich and their
> coffers.
>>> Gas prices, home heating, electricity. All time highs. Even more, the
> rich
>>> do'nt care.
>>>
>>> There was a time in America where by if you were rich and owned a company
>>> or corporation you felt and obligation to the common working man and woman.
>>> Now, you got boards in New-York calling the shots. Who's only mission
> is
>>> to "Return To Share Holder Value". Well, theirs nothing wrong with RTSV.
>>> It's what free market is all about. it's very American. However, how much
>>> "Return is Enough"?? At what cost to the working stiffs is this affecting
>>> their "Quality of Life"?
>>>
>>> Greed is alive and kicking in America. Like the Character in "Wall-Street"
>>> Gordon Geko: Greed is Good.. However, today their is Too-Much Greed..
> And
>>> it's not Good.
>>> LaMont
>>>
>>> "John Macy" <spamlessjohn@johnmacy.com> wrote:
>>>>
>>>> A man owned a recording studio in Texas. The Texas Wage & Hour Dept.
> claimed
>>>> he was not paying proper wages to his help. They sent an agent out to
>>>> interview
>>>> & investigate the accusations.
>>>> Upon arrival at the studio the agents demanded, "We need a list of your
>>> employees
>>>> and how much you pay them,"
>>>> The studio owner replied, "There's my main engineer who's been with me
> for
>>>> 3 years. I pay him \$800 a week plus benefits."
>>>> The studio manager has been here for 18 months, "I pay her \$500 per week
>>>> plus benefits".
>>>> Then there's the half-wit who works here about 18 hours every day and
> does
>>>> about 90% of all the work around here. He makes \$10 per week, and I buy
>>> him
>>>> a bottle of bourbon every Saturday night."
>>>> "That's the guy I want to talk to - the half-wit," says the agent.

>>>>
>>>
>>
>

Subject: Re: Too true...Health Care: National Problem: Rant
Posted by [cujo](#) on Fri, 03 Mar 2006 16:03:11 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

heheheh Phil Clavin!

"Phil Aiken" <paiken@partners.org> wrote:

>

>"DJ" <animix_spam-this-ahole_@animas.net> wrote:

>>Having had more than my share of experience with hospitals and the
>>healthcare system in the last few years, I can guarantee you that the
>>hospitals are charging higher rates to the insurance companies than they
>>charge to individuals who are not covered by insurance, or whose policies
>>don't cover the procedures.

>

> Other way around, actually.

> Most insurance companies pay either based on DRG, or capitation, loosely
>meaning respectively that they pay a flat rate per patient either by diagnosis,
>or a flat rate per patient seen regardless of treatment or diag. This amounts
>in either case to much less money than itemized treatment.

> It is true that uncovered patient's care is supplemented either by Free
>Care or Welfare. There is a certain pool of money available to hospitals
>for Free Care. It behooves them to get paid by Free Care as opposed to billing
>the patient, though they are paid pennies on the dollar, as the amount of
>bad debt that gets written off to individuals is a pretty high percentage.

>

>There are more hospitals losing money than making money right now.

>

> If I'm sounding like the Cliff Clavin of health care:

> When I'm not playing piano and recording I'm a software engineer for the
>parent corporation of 2 of the largest hospitals in the U.S.

>

>

>

Subject: Re: Too true...Health Care: National Problem: Rant
Posted by [LaMont](#) on Fri, 03 Mar 2006 16:17:57 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Dedric, As per usuall, your points are on point and really speaks to the issues
and ills of our nation and the world.
Thanks for your very heart-felt replys
LaMont

Dedric Terry <dterry@keyofd.net> wrote:

>Your points are good, but I think I may be seeing it from a different side
>of the same box:
>
>It isn't government that is to blame - that's too easy - it's our culture
>and who we are as people. People run businesses. People work in
>government. People listen to the noise and think it's the gospel truth.
>Without stopping the vicious cycle of greed, raising prices to clear more
>profit on top of someone else's attempts to do the same (insurance vs. drug
>companies vs. medical community), costs will continue to spiral upward.
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>self-evident. But when the purpose is to bully one another until someone

>cries uncle, that purpose is diminished to nothing more than a power

>struggle.

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>I see your point for sure - abusing labor is inexcusable, but abusing the

>power of an organization is equally as inexcusable. Until the greed stops,

>the bleeding will continue. None of this would be necessary if we had half

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>Regards,

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>>>> have now??
>>>>
>>>> So, I wish poor working stiffs stop championing the "Rich" societies
causes.
>>>> Who's anti heath care rhectoric has been: 'Do you want your goverment"
>>>> involved
>>>> with healthcare?" Then chuckle(no no)..
>>>> In case you missed it, the so-cald middle class is shrinking daily,a
>> nd
>>>> the divide btw rich and others(poor) is the wideset it's ever been in

>> the
>>>> history of our nation. We are being "FLEECED" for the Rich and their
>> coffers.
>>>> Gas prices, home heating, electricity. All time highs. Even more, the
>> rich
>>>> do'nt care.
>>>>
>>>> There was a time in America where by if you were rich and owned a company
>>>> or corporation you felt and obligation to the common working man and
woman.
>>>> Now, you got boards in New-York calling the shots. Who's only mission
>> is
>>>> to "Return To Share Holder Value". Well, theirs nothing wrong with RTSV.
>>>> It's what free market is all about. it's very American. However, how
much
>>>> "Return is Enough"?? At what cost to the working stiffs is this affecting
>>>> their "Quality of Life"?
>>>>
>>>> Greed is alive and kicking in America. Like the Character in "Wall-Street"
>>>> Gordon Geko: Greed is Good.. However, today their is Too-Much Greed..
>> And
>>>> it's not Good.
>>>> LaMont
>>>>
>>>> "John Macy" <spamlessjohn@johnmacy.com> wrote:
>>>>>
>>>>> A man owned a recording studio in Texas. The Texas Wage & Hour Dept.
>> claimed
>>>>> he was not paying proper wages to his help. They sent an agent out
to
>>>>> interview
>>>>> & investigate the accusations.
>>>>> Upon arrival at the studio the agents demanded, "We need a list of
your
>>>> employees
>>>>> and how much you pay them,"
>>>>> The studio owner replied, "There's my main engineer who's been with
me
>> for
>>>>> 3 years. I pay him \$800 a week plus benefits."
>>>>> The studio manager has been here for 18 months, "I pay her \$500 per
week
>>>>> plus benefits".
>>>>> Then there's the half-wit who works here about 18 hours every day and
>> does
>>>>> about 90% of all the work around here. He makes \$10 per week, and I
buy
>>>> him

>>>> a bottle of bourbon every Saturday night."
>>>> "That's the guy I want to talk to - the half-wit," says the agent.

>>>>
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