<WRWeb 19.1 webtask \*\*\*\*>

Healthcare in the US

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A.1

Probably because of the for-profit mentality of most hospitals, and because the insurances want better deals, with steep discounts, the hospitals jack up prices, and give huge discounts to the insurances.

A.2

Huge administrative costs, High costs of medicine, High salary of hospital personnel, Hospitals are for-profit, Unnecessary tests to avoid lawsuits, price variations

A.3

“The U.S. spends about 8% of its healthcare dollar on administrative costs, compared to 1% to 3% in the 10 other countries the JAMA study looked at.”

“With little regulation of drug prices, the U.S. spends an average of $1,443 per person, compared to $749, on average, spent by the other prosperous countries studied.”

“The average U.S. family doctor earns $218,173 a year, and specialists make $316,000”

“$11,170, The cost of a hospital birth in the U.S.,”

“Hospital care accounts for 33% of the nation’s healthcare costs.”

“A typical angioplasty to open a blocked blood vessel, for example, costs $6,390 in the Netherlands, $7,370 in Switzerland, and $32,230 in the United States.”

“a heart bypass operation in the U.S. costs $78,100 compared to $32,010 in Switzerland.”

“While a CT scan costs just $97 in Canada and $500 in Australia, the average cost is $896 in the U.S. A typical MRI scan costs $1,420 in the United States, but around $450 in Britain.”

“For COVID-19, for example, the cost of an urgent care visit and lab tests averages $1,696 but can range from a low of $241 to a high of $4,510 depending on the provider.”

B.1

United States, Switzerland, and The Netherlands.

Nurse Salary

United States: $74,250

Switzerland: $58,041

Netherlands: $60,253

Cost of Birth

United States: $11,170

Switzerland: $7,751

Netherlands: $4,170

Angioplasty

United States: $32,230

Switzerland: $7,370

Netherlands: $6,390

Heart bypass operation

United States: $78,100

Switzerland: $32,010

Netherlands: $27,120

Final Task

To The Honorable Alex Azar Secretary of Health and Human Services

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

200 Independence Avenue, SW.

Washington, DC 20201

Dear Mr. Secretary

I am writing to call your attention to the problem of the rising cost of healthcare in America. We are spending more than ever on healthcare, yet our system is becoming worse and worse. Prices are skyrocketing, yet the quality of care worsens, and there should be action taken for this. An American, on average three to four times more for healthcare than other civilized countries, yet, on average, America spends two times per person on health. This is a problem. In these uncertain times, with a pandemic on the loose, the prices are killing the poor, who can’t get access to healthcare. And now, with Obamacare being repealed, it’s getting even more difficult to fix the health system. But it can be fixed, drastic measures will need to be taken. The Netherlands, a small country in Europe, is a good example of this. It has mandated insurance, reasonable wages, good quality medical care, and good access to it. There are so many reforms we could implement, like a limit on the price drug makers and hospitals can charge for medicine or limits on salaries of hospital administrators to reduce the very high administrative cost. There are also things not directly tied, like the obesity epidemic, which play a huge factor. Obese patients pay 150% more on healthcare than their non-obese counterparts, and nearly 20% of the healthcare budget indirectly goes to obesity patients. We need to teach children and give access to healthier food sources and exercise. We need to outlaw predatory advertising for candies and cereals with high sugar content. We need to crack down on malpractice lawsuits, without actively making them useless. A largely overlooked point is sickness leave. In some states going to a hospital or doctor means losing a job, which is downright despicable. I hope there will be some drastic measures soon, or I fear that the healthcare industry will run itself into the ground.

Sincerely.   
Pawel Paton