"Health has been callously transformed into a commodity ... that those with means are able to afford". As Angela Davis states in her article "Sick and Tired of Being Sick and Tired: The Politics of Black Women's Health", healthcare has become something that only the moderately wealthy can afford. Health is an issue all of mankind can relate to, we all get sick, we all need medicine in order to live for as long as we do now. However, some people are being treated unfairly when it comes to receiving health care, but I believe we are taking the right steps to getting everyone the coverage they need.

At this point in time, the United States does not have a national health care plan. People feel very strongly for and against the idea of having the government control all or a portion of the health care system. I believe this issue shouldn't be dealt with based on the economics of nationwide health care, or who controls what part. It should be dealt with based on the fact that every person in the world needs some type of health care at one point or another in their life, and we have the ability to provide that care. Right now, the non upper class citizens of the United States are being treated like they are a lesser species. A statistic from Davis's article shows that in 1983, 26.5% of blacks went to the emergency room for care, while only 13% of whites went. The statistic evens the percentages out when you see that whites are going to many more scheduled hospital appointments than blacks. Now while this is a purely race-based statistic, the same thing is happening to all of the poor in America. They are being forced to go to the emergency room for health care because they are either denied or cannot afford health insurance to make a scheduled visit. Because of this, emergency rooms are unnecessarily full, and hospitals can not treat people in the most efficient ways possible.

Obama has proposed a plan for nationwide health care. Many people disagree with his plan because of how the economics of it work out and because people don't trust the government to take care of their health care correctly. Both are very valid points, and should be brought up for discussion. I believe that Obama is doing the right thing in at least proposing some way to help everyone in America get the health care they need, and that general idea is widely accepted. Some might argue that if you give everyone a basic health care plan, and still have more advanced, more expensive plans for the wealthy, the same thing that is going on now will still be happening after nationwide health care is implemented. Yes, the wealthy will still have the top notch health care, but think about what is happening to the people that can't afford any health care at all right now. By giving them health care, we could raise the bottom bar for our health standards. At first, everything would be the same. But eventually, the overall health status for the nation would increase. Less people would get sick due to people being given proper vaccinations and medications for diseases. This would lead to less economic stress down the road, and having less sick people means more people being able to work.

In the short term, there will be an ongoing debate on whether or not we should use Obama's plan for nationwide health care. In the long term, however, it is very important that we do something to raise the standard for a person's health in the United States. We have the potential to be the healthiest nation in the world, so we shouldn't let economics make us forget the most valuable thing of all: a human life.

**Word Count: 644**