

COMMON ARGUMENTS AGAINST ESTABLISHING UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE

- **Health care is not a right.** As such, it is not the responsibility of government to provide health care.
- **Increased wait times.** Universal health care would result in increased wait times, which could result in unnecessary deaths.
- **Universal Health Care has not proven successful.** Unequal access and health disparities still exist in universal health care systems.
- **Universal health care would reduce efficiency** because of more bureaucratic oversight and more paperwork, which could lead to fewer doctor-patient visits. Advocates of this argument claim that the performance of administrative duties by doctors results from medical centralization and over-regulation, and may reduce charitable provision of medical services by doctors.
- **A Safety Net already exists.** The Federal Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act requires hospitals and ambulance services to provide emergency care to anyone regardless of citizenship, legal status or ability to pay. The health care safety net, which includes free medical clinics, charity care, nonprofits and government-run community hospitals, provides necessary care to the uninsured.
- **The Market is a superior regulator of cost.** Empirical evidence on the Medicare single payer-insurance program demonstrates that the cost exceeds the expectations of advocates. As an open-ended entitlement, Medicare does not weigh the benefits of technologies against their costs. Paying physicians on a fee-for-service basis also leads to spending increases. As a result, it is difficult to predict or control Medicare's spending. Large market-based public program such as the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program and CalPERS can provide better coverage than Medicare while still controlling costs as well.
- **Universal healthcare is unfair to healthy tax payers** because it gives people who smoke, drink, do drugs, and eat unhealthily unfair benefits.

SOURCE: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universal_health_care

