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OpEd Essay

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### Healthcare for All!

Healthcare is a human right that all people should have access to; however, [almost 30 million American citizens are uninsured](#). It is tragic to think that there are many people out there that can not afford to have such a basic right. Although there are arguments against universal healthcare for the United States like how it would increase taxes and make waiting times worse, I believe that the pros for a universal healthcare system outweigh the cons.

One reason I believe we should switch to universal healthcare is that it would relieve a lot of financial burden off of people. Did you know that [the number one reason people file for bankruptcy in America is because of medical debt](#)? That's absurd! It shows that there is most definitely a problem with our healthcare system and the affordability of it. For example, the average cost of an uninsured doctor visit in the United States costs around 172 dollars which is a lot higher compared to the United Kingdom, a country with universal healthcare. Appointments over there can [cost as little as 36 pounds](#) (45.45 US dollars as of March 30th) which is a significantly better price. Another factor that puts a substantial amount of financial burden on the shoulders of citizens is prescription medicine. Uninsured citizens that need to buy prescription medicine have a hard time keeping up with the high costs, and an example of this is the [tragic death of a man named Josh Wilkerson](#). Wilkerson was a type-1 diabetic an uninsured so he had to purchase insulin out of pocket to stay alive; however, the price of his usual insulin was **\$1,200**. Such an unbelievably high price for something very necessary for his well-being. Since he could

not balance both the expensive medicine and other important expenditures, like food and rent as his income was not high enough, he had to settle for cheaper Walmart insulin. However, this insulin was not working as well, and it ultimately led to his unfortunate death on June 15, 2019. By implementing a universal healthcare plan, citizens would not have to worry about medical debts so that they may focus more on other important expenditures like rent, food, and bills and allow for more disposable income which could be put into an emergency fund. Additionally, this would lower the amount of medical debt in the US, and would allow people to go to the doctor when they need to without worrying about accruing debt.

Another reason why the United States should switch to a universal healthcare plan is because it would allow for widespread ease of access to medical care and an overall healthier population. As of right now, the United States is currently dealing with the problem of increasing chronic illnesses in their population. [According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#), 6 in 10 adults in the US have a chronic illness. Furthermore, [according to Debt.org](#), 59% of uninsured people that were surveyed had a medical problem, but did not visit a doctor. The fact that both of those statistics are more than half is mind boggling. A universal healthcare system would be most beneficial to address this issue as it would allow more people to have access to preventative initiatives which would help decrease the amount of people developing these diseases. Additionally, it would allow for people that have these conditions to get the care they need. According to an [article from the National Center for Biotechnology Information](#), since the government would have to pay for all the care and treatment of people with chronic diseases due to the universal health plan, the government would be incentivized to provide prevention programs across the US to prevent having to pay for it. This would help

decrease the growing rate of chronic illnesses among people and allow for an overall healthier American population.

In conclusion, I believe that by implementing a universal healthcare plan in the United States, we can change the lives of millions of Americans drastically by relieving them of financial burden and allowing them to be as healthy as they can be. As of right now, the system in place does not allow for all Americans to enjoy such things, and it is totally unfair. Yes, there may be some hardships if we decide to implement this plan, but if it means that there will be less cases like Josh Wilkerson's, then I believe it will be very much worth it in the long run.

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