

Can a Sick Healthcare System be Made Healthy Under Capitalism?

The Destruction of Medicaid and Privatization of Medicare is Killing Americans and Eliminating Healthcare Workers

“The Institute of Medicine, using older studies, estimated that one American dies every 30 minutes from lack of health insurance,” said David Himmelstein, a study co-author, associate professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School and primary care physician at the Cambridge Health Alliance. “Even this grim figure is an underestimate – now one dies every 12 minutes.”

26 million people are not covered at all, that means somewhere between 35-45,000 people die each year between the ages of 18-64 years old. According to a 2023 survey by the Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF), an estimated 100 million Americans are currently in medical debt. This represents approximately 40% of adults in the United States and now the government is planning to cut Medicaid benefits to low-income people. These cuts will end up in the deaths of many people in the United States and the elimination of hundreds of thousands of healthcare worker jobs.

Consider these grim statistics and consider the fact that the US is the richest country in the world and the only industrialized nation without nationalized healthcare and yet the CEO of a major national insurer, UnitedHealth, earned around \$23.5 million. How is it possible that this discrepancy exists? The problem is multifaceted; that is, we live in a capitalist society and the name of the game is making as much profit as possible, but even that explanation doesn't go far enough.

The reason drug costs are lower around the world is that many of the industrialized countries from Canada to Europe have national healthcare unlike the United States. Trump's executive order will not lower prices. In fact, he is demanding that Europe raise its drug costs so the US drug companies can continue to increase their profits.

Why doesn't anyone change this? After all, we are told that living in a democracy means that with our vote we can change the way things operate. The truth is that the politicians, both the Democrats and Republicans, serve the needs of the capitalists and, it is clear, that healthcare is big business. Millions of dollars are spent on shoddy care, especially for working class people, and the insurance companies capitalize on the lack of nationalized health care.

Even now, the corporate union leadership in conjunction with the politicians are doing the bidding of the industry by trying to push working class people off Medicare which was wrested from the government in 1965 with the hope of putting seniors into a managed care privatized program called Medicare advantage. “Leaders” such as the UFT president Michael Mulgrew

and Henry Garrido of DC 37 opposed Medicare for All and participated in killing a bill in NYC which would have guaranteed single payer, that is free healthcare for all its residents. The current President of Teamsters Local 237, the largest local in the International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT), is Gregory Floyd. He is also the Vice President at-Large of the IBT and Vice President of the AFL-CIO and sits on the Emblem Health insurance company Board of Directors.

Is it any wonder why workers are being sacrificed for the lucrative living styles of the bureaucrats who argue that there is no money for decent healthcare. Lack of affordable healthcare will not only affect retirees, but it will also drive already struggling seniors into poverty and will surely mean death for many people who will now have to wait for prior approvals and possibly no approval for needed lifesaving procedures and medicine because they will be turned down by the insurance companies. In addition, Trump is now pushing for the end of Medicaid, a program that delivers healthcare for low-income people. The statistics above demonstrate the lack of concern that the ruling class has for the working class, and with the support of the business unionists, who are complicit, that is they prevent workers from striking against these decisions.

We must throw the bums out. They would rather play ball with management than fight for decent healthcare for their members. The Democratic Party,

no matter how they pretend to support workers' rights, are just another party of the bosses. We need our own party to fight for our demands, that is we need to build a Labor Party and that party must fight for a general strike of the entire working class. We will not win our demands by begging, we must display our power and that means withholding our labor. Everything will stop, capitalists will not make their profits and then we will see that we are not weak but have the capacity to win our demands and to actually rule society.

The Democrats will not get us single payer healthcare because they like the Republicans are controlled by the healthcare industry, big pharma and companies like Black Rock which profits on preventing people from getting healthcare including using AI.

On May 31st, there will be demos nationwide to call for Nationalized healthcare. In NYC We will be marching to Blackwater which invests heavily in Aetna. Aetna earned its profits from the slave trade and continues to allow people to die to guarantee profits. We need to take profits out of healthcare and put workers and community in charge of our healthcare.



Fight for Socialized Medicine

Build a Labor Party & For A General Strike To Defend Working People and Stop The Fascist Regime

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