

## **US HEALTH CARE & THE OPIOID CRISIS**

The “opioid crisis” is a health care issue. As a nation we are better-off to build-on ACA rather than tear it down. The Canadian Model of health care for opioid addicts mediates deaths from fentanyl. We can learn from that experience.

What we need first for US Health Care is to stabilize the markets with a government option for insurance coverage. This ensures where private medical insurers leave a market area the government can act as insurer. This original ACA provision was dropped to get “buy-in” from the insurance industry. Bernie Sander’s proposal for Universal Health Care for all is a great idea, but we have a ways to go to get there. If a proposal to pass a government option to compete with private insurers in markets is passed, the next battle will be to limit health care costs. The Affordable Care Act (ACA) does little to contain costs, as it was a “real politick” approach to pass something that would increase health care coverage for many. Big Insurance and Big Pharma have already spent millions of dollars (if not billions) to protect their business-models and profit margins. Yet costs must be contained and profit-margins for Big Insurance and Big Pharma must be reduced to make universal coverage possible.

US Health Care has its roots in care for veterans as far back as 1636 (Plymouth Colony), and the Veterans Administration was formed in 1930. In the mid-1960’s Medicare and Medicaid were passed by the US Congress, and Medicaid was viewed by some as a preventive measure against universal health care coverage and a “socialist system of care”. Given that US health care has some origins dating back to 1636, and has had a heated-battle in the US Congress since at least the mid-1960’s one gets a grasp on the scope of the gulf between those who would make health care more generally available and those who would not. Yet Universal Health Care coverage can be structured to take some burdens off US businesses and to make businesses more competitive in the global economy as other developed nations have done.

**GEORGE BY 2025, BY GEORGE**

**MOVING FROM THE DARKNESS TO THE LIGHT ...**

**CITIZEN CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT**