

Minnesota Representative David Bly at the Capitol:
557 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155
(651) 296-7065

Dear David Bly,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a senior at [REDACTED]. I am writing to you about Universal Healthcare.

Last week I watched the movie Sicko, by Michael Moore. I really didn't know much about our healthcare system in the United States. I had heard many adults complain about how expensive it was but really didn't know what that meant. After watching the movie I started to ask people and was shocked.

Next I went on the internet and did some investigating of the Universal Health Care systems. I learned that the United States ranks 37th in the World. Costa Rica was 36th. The United States is the only industrialized nation that does not guarantee access to health care as a right of citizenship.

The following are facts that I also didn't know:

- United States ranks 23rd in infant mortality
- United States ranks 20th in life expectancy for women
- United States ranks 21st in life expectancy for men
- United States ranks 50th and 100th in immunizations
- Outcome studies on variety of diseases, such as coronary artery disease, and renal failure show the United State to rank below Canada

The United States ranks poorly relative to other industrialized health care despite having the best trained health care providers and the best medical infrastructure.

My family has also been affected by health care cost. My mom was diagnosed with breast cancer in March of 2007. I asked my mom to share the cost of her treatment with me. I was shocked on the cost of the medical treatments and the out of pocket cost my parents have had to pay. They have completely depleted all of their savings and have had to take out a loan to pay monthly bills.

I have also experienced the health care system myself. In my freshman year I collapsed on the football field and was taken by ambulance to our local hospital. Unfortunately, after several tests and three and a half years later I still continue to have the same issue. I have been unable to participate in school sport and I am currently homebound from school.

My mom explained to me that on several occasions she had to fight with the insurance company to get my ambulance ride covered by insurance and they threaten not to pay for the next one.

I am confused, isn't that why my parents pay health care premiums every month? If we cannot get treatment or cannot use it for what we need, why have health insurance. My parent's are also afraid to switch insurance companies because of my mom's and my health issues. They explained to me that their rates keep increasing all the time and they are having a hard time making the premium payments.

As a family, it's been extremely hard on all of us emotionally just to deal the illnesses. It's been hard to watch my parents worry about the money too. My mother was laid off of her job in Fed 2007 and received the news she had cancer in March 2007. She has been unable to work for a while and now when she goes and applies for a job, she doesn't get hired because she is truthful about her cancer. What employer would want to hire someone who has to take time off of work for cancer treatments? Once again, another financial burden takes it toll on a family already dealing with enough.

Would Universal Health Care Deprive People of Needed Services?

Studies reveal that the universal health care systems have more doctor visits and more hospital days in the US

Around 30% of Americans have problems accessing health care due to payment problems or access to care.

About 17% of our population is without health care.

Access to health care is directly related to income and race in the US

The US denies access to health care based on the ability to pay.

Also in my finding on the internet I learned that corporation's are able to buy politicians through campaign finance systems and control the media to convince people that corporate health care is democratic, represents freedom, and is the most efficient system for delivering health care.

After all of my research, I than tried to find out how I could help in getting Universal Health Care in the United States. The first thing they said was to write a letter to our State Representative. So I am taking action and writing you this letter.

I believe that Universal Health Care would benefit everyone in the United State. People shouldn't have to lose everything because of an illness. Nor should people be treated different because of their financial situation. There are 47 million Americans without insurance which is unacceptable in this country.

Please push to pass a bill where people are treated with dignity, no matter what their financial status is. Where people don't have to choose between a house payment or medications. Please fix our health care system for the future generation and for the good of all Americans.

Thank you,

