

Healthcare as a Human Right for Americans?

by Stephen Elliott-Buckley - Friday, August 14, 2009

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Americans have had it rough, what with their rabidly individualistic, anti-communitarian history and social policy.

From that, they have a hard time embracing things of the common good, like healthcare being a human right.

The current debate, with the wingnut lunacy of greedy hyper-individualists wanting to keep poor people without healthcare that others would have to pay for, is quite hard to follow. It's rife with red herrings.

And the Canadian system is awesome, of course, except for how our own right wing, greedy, hyper-individualists are trying to destroy it through defunding it. Our healthcare crisis is a result of right wing governments privatizing, turning off the taps and trying to bankrupt and impair the public system so people will demand market solutions with health insurance companies poised to make billions off this new desire to pay for what we've gotten for free for four decades.

So, in looking for sound analysis of what is happening in the USA, I've read [Greg Palast slamming Obama for giving backrubs to the healthcare oligarchs](#), but it looks like that's the brokerage politics working because in reading Joshua Holland's analysis, [10 Awesome Things That Would Happen If Health Reform Passes](#), seeking an achievable solution likely means not destroying the insurance companies and Big Pharma. Yet, anyway.

Holland:

So let's get past the fearmongering and look at some of the highlights of what's really in the more progressive legislation working it's way through Congress. The proposals aren't perfect. As I've written before, in their current form, the bills fail the test of having a truly "robust" public insurance option, and as such has limited potential for cost savings.

But they are also substantial reforms that would go quite a way toward beefing up the health and economic security of a lot of American families if enacted.

via [10 Awesome Things That Would Happen If Health Reform Passes | Politics | AlterNet](#).

And in the mess is [the new boycott of the otherwise progressive Whole Foods](#). Why? Their CEO is a rabidly individualistic hater of common social policy:

"We are all responsible for our own lives and our own health," Mackey wrote yesterday in the Wall Street Journal. "We should take that responsibility very seriously and use our freedom to make wise lifestyle choices that will protect our health. Doing so will enrich our lives and will help create a vibrant

and sustainable American society.”

Capitalism first [along with his profits], the health of the vulnerable and poor comes second.

So let's cross our fingers and hope community, cooperation and the progressive ideals that the majority of Americans possess--despite how the corporate media tries to convince them otherwise--will allow them to see through the rhetoric and nonsense and embrace a real improvement in their human rights.

It's time to get with the 20th century, America! And while we fight off our own greedy, for-profit healthcare ghouls, we'll help you get into the 21st century soon!