

# Envision | Issue Statement Paper

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## Issue and Topic

Healthcare: Is it too expensive?

## Problem Statement

Health care is a crucial, basic right which should be open to everyone, regardless of their socio-economic standing. In today's America, 1 in every 5 people cannot afford healthcare; yet in the Declaration of Independence, it is stated that everyone has the right to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." One is lead to wonder then, how people can be expected to live and work, if they cannot even maintain their health? This ultimately leads one to believe that healthcare is too expensive.

Affordable healthcare is an issue which should be addressed on a national level; the unemployment rate is at 4.9% (as of August 2016), and it can only be assumed that health plays a critical part in this. One might question the idea of being unemployed but also having concerns about affordable health insurance. However, unlikely as it may seem, these two are undoubtedly connected. People sacrifice both their jobs and education in order to take care of loved ones; it is only realistic that we address the idea that if healthcare were more affordable, careers and education need not be sacrificed; and those in need of healthcare would be taken care of in a more timely manner, their sickness not having progressed as much as it has.

## Sustainable Solution

In order to fix this pressing issue, we propose removing tax breaks from the upper class; the money would be utilized to cover the medical fees of all American citizens. This would effectively rid the country of Reaganomics- the form of economics introduced by former president Ronald Reagan. It would initiate the metaphorical turning of the stone in healthcare. Under this new and improved legislation, we would buy out the existing, private-owned companies, which drive healthcare today. These companies will be replaced by a single, government-owned and run company. This would also prevent monopolies from entering the business, simultaneously preventing them from

unnecessary raising the price of medications and vaccinations. Under this new policy, healthcare would ultimately become affordable for all American citizens. This process would take about 2-4 years to be put in place and organized, as it would face opposition. The biggest challenge to overcome, however, is the upper class population would have an aversion to giving up more of their wealth than they currently have to. The government would then counter this with the idea that tax breaks would allow the middle and lower class the funds to both work for and purchase more from the upper class.

In conclusion, we must acknowledge the idea that the affordability of healthcare is a national issue, which is a direct factor of unemployment. By eliminating monopolies in the health industry, we can improve unemployment rates and make healthcare affordable for those who truly need it. For, as a country, we are nothing if we can not provide our citizens with the tools they need to fulfill the promise of the constitution: to pursue life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.