

## The Truth about America's Healthcare

<http://www.pnhp.org/resources/cartoons?page=2>

The political cartoon I have selected is one that people can laugh at, yet contains an important and serious issue that the United States faces today. Through political satire Horsey shows the relationship between U.S. healthcare, drug companies and insurance companies and how their relationship has taken a deadly toll on our nation.

The issue at hand is that there's a discrepancy between how U.S. healthcare should be and how it really is. Our healthcare system has deteriorated over the years. While we have some of the best doctors and nurses in the world, the drug and insurance companies decide who receives treatment and who doesn't.

The primary audience for this political cartoon is most likely uninsured United States citizens. Most Americans have a basic understanding of what's happening in our healthcare industry, or the lack there of. The purpose of this cartoon is to reach out to people who don't read newspapers and watch the news and teach them to stand up for their rights. If more people come out of the woodworks to vote for important issues like this, their voices will be amplified and something will be done to remedy the state of our healthcare.

The artist of the political cartoon I selected is David Horsey of the Seattle Post-Intelligencer. What makes him a reputable author and cartoonist stems from the fact that he won the 1999 Pulitzer Prize for editorial cartooning and his works are distributed worldwide. He also received the National Press Foundation's Berryman award for cartoonist of the year in

1998. Horsey spent a year at the Hearst Newspaper's Washington Bureau where he spent many hours learning more about Congress, the White House, and the 2008 presidential campaign.

Horsey's purpose for publishing this piece is to inform America that our healthcare is in a state of disarray. Pharmaceutical and insurance companies control our healthcare industry. Between 2009 and 2010 the number of uninsured Americans climbed from 49.0 million to 49.9 million people, an all time high.

Horsey has used satire and humor in this illustration as rhetorical strategies to appeal to the reader and get them emotionally involved. The insurance company has taken the man's (U.S. healthcare system) wallet, while the drug company pumps him full of drugs; meanwhile the man lay helpless and untreated on the table. This is what the U.S. healthcare system has turned into, who can gross the most money. Shouldn't it be about the health of the citizens like in other countries?

A recent article on CBS states that America's healthcare system is costing Americans two-and-a-half times as much as more advanced countries like Switzerland. The outcome is that our wallets are bare and we're not receiving the same care as that of other nations. Our healthcare system seems to be all about the money, not the health of Americans. This is why drug companies are at will to give a "pill for every ill" while people may not be getting the care and rehabilitation they need.

Last year I turned twenty-six and was dropped from my mother's insurance policy. My work doesn't provide insurance for part-time employees, so I've been shopping around for the

best deal. For the most part the prices are asinine. I now understand why so many Americans are uninsured.

Data collected by the Department of Health and Human Services states that at least half of all Americans take at least one prescription drug, and one in six take three or more medications. The insurance industry and drug companies run the U.S. healthcare system.

In conclusion, America needs to make the health of its citizens a top priority and begin decreasing the influence of major companies concerning healthcare. Without healthcare, many people will die or be unable to carry out their jobs efficiently; and without blue collar workers, many of which are uninsured, the nation will continue to not function the way it should.