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Reflection Paper #9

This week, we discussed US Healthcare. This discussion was difficult for me since I do not know much about the current health care bills or the health care proposals that are floating around in Congress, but it was an interesting discussion nonetheless. We started off discussing the health care of Massachusetts and how it has served as a blueprint for Obamacare. Although Romney has been getting much flack about his health care plan being the basis for Obamacare, I feel as though that is irrelevant and just an attempt to further undermine Romney. I think that Romneycare worked in the scope of the state of Massachusetts but just because it was successful on a statewide scale does not mean that it will be successful on a national scale. I think it is commendable that Romney was able to pass a health care bill in MA that is successful but I in no way think that that is a good reason to pass Obamacare and expect it to be just as successful.

I really grappled with whether or not universal health care should be passed or not. On one hand, I think that everyone having health care would be good for society, especially children who currently do not have coverage because their parents cannot afford it. However, I wonder, what happens when everyone has healthcare? How will the health care industry accommodate the millions of individuals who once did not have coverage but now do? What will the drug companies do with prices of prescription drugs now that everyone has coverage, which might lead to an increase in demand for medication? Will companies up prices, leaving the poor without a way to cover high costs of medication, leaving them back where they started? I think there are so many questions that need to be addressed before universal health care is enacted. As for now, I believe that the health care system should stay the way it is now until the detailed workings of universal healthcare are smoothed out. I think if Romney wins the 2012 election, there is no way universal healthcare will be passed. If Obama stays in office, I think he will have too much opposition to pass universal health care. So, ultimately, universal health care will remain as just a concept until some alarming issues are resolved.

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