

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

SECOND ISSUE ARTICLE

June 2011

Central Oregon Council On Aging's Project KIP (Knowledge Is Power) is pleased to present the second article in the issues-based educational series. April's Project KIP topic was critical thinking and May's second article debated: "Are the new health care reform laws constitutional?" For June we invite you to think about the issues below, discuss it with friends and then make your own judgment.

Please go to the web site address <http://healthcare.procon.org/> or ask for a paper copy of the article from your local Senior Center staff.

Should all Americans have the right (be entitled) to health care?

It's a topic everyone has an opinion about because health care touches each and every life. Where do you stand on the topic? Read the full article at the link above, and consider some facts below

Approximately 46.3 million people in the US were uninsured in 2008 according to the US Census Bureau. In 2007, health care expenditures totaled \$2.2 trillion or 16.2% of the US economy. Health care is the largest industry in the US, employing more than 14 million people.

Proponents of the right to health care argue that it would stop medical bankruptcies, improve public health, and reduce overall health care spending. This position believes that no one in the richest nation on earth should go without health care. A June 2009 poll shows that 64% of Americans say health care should be a right.

Opponents argue that using tax revenue to provide health care to all Americans amounts to socialism and would decrease the quality and availability of health care for those who work hard to get medical coverage. This position believes it is not the government's responsibility to guarantee health coverage.

Did You Know?

The US is estimated to have the highest prostate and breast cancer survival rates in the world. 62.1% of all US bankruptcies in 2007 were related to medical expenses

Approximately 78% of medical bankruptcies were filed by people who had health insurance. Out of the 193 member states of the World Health Organization, the United States ranked #1 in per capita health care expenditures (\$6,719). The United States is one of the few, if not the only, developed nation in the world that does not guarantee health coverage for its citizens.

What do you think about the right to Health Care? Read the full [Pro/Con discussion](#) by clicking on this link or going to <http://healthcare.procon.org/> and continue the dialogue about important topics.