

Research Assessment #5

Date: 26 October 2018

Subject: U.S. health care and the first four months of Obama

MLA Citation:

Alexander, Jim. "U.S. health care and the first four months of Obama: now that the new occupant of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue has been decided, it's a good time to take stock of what the new administration will mean to the healthcare industry, and particularly providers." *Healthcare Financial Management*, Jan. 2009, p. 34+. *Health & Wellness Resource Center*, <http://link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/A192801539/HWRC?u=j043905001&sid=HWRC&xid=5db8ade0>. Accessed 26 Oct. 2018.

Author: Jim Alexander, FHFMA, CPA

Assessment: Politics of Healthcare in the beginnings of Obama Administration

One flaw of mine is that I can never seem to find the time to fully catch up on politics and news so I am not always aware of what is going on. I hope to change this in the future as I get more time after marching band and college apps, but as of right now, I hope to get a little insight into the goings on of healthcare in the political arena. I came across this article, written by Jim Alexander, FHFMA, CPA, that discusses former President Barack Obama's approach to addressing the state of healthcare in this country at the time. I did not know much at all about his policies, considering I was eight when he was first elected, so I thought that this would be a great chance to look at an example of healthcare policy in the White House.

One major theme throughout all of the points and statements outlined by President Obama was a dream to provide "affordable, accessible coverage options for all." This concept of universal healthcare is quite controversial in the United States where our healthcare systems and insurance companies are all privatized and supported by capitalistic pursuits. In many countries in Europe and in Canada, the government has issued universal healthcare systems that operate very differently from the ones that we have here. I know that an argument that Democrats often pose is that the cost of healthcare is much cheaper in areas with government-run healthcare institutions, so is that the complete direction that party is wanting to go? Or, on the other hand, are Republicans proponents of the the way capitalism is running healthcare and the increasing costs due to overall system inflation of almost all price levels? Is there a certain country that has a model of healthcare that would work for the United States in terms of population size and demographics?

One problem with government funded healthcare is the stunted ability to rapidly grow with innovation and the lack of funds due to the inability to draw from private

sources and investments. Currently, the United States is one of the leaders in healthcare innovation and research, but patient results and data show that we are far below the world's foremost leaders in healthcare. There are many instances where our performance in maternal mortality rate, life expectancy, and general access to healthcare have not been proportional to our healthcare budget or performances in the research arena. The problem seems to be that the new technology and procedures are all much too expensive for majority of the American population. So is the answer to lower prices of healthcare as a whole, to expand healthcare insurance, or both? Should legislation be passed to try to wane the rapidly increasing costs in healthcare for stability?

While this article covers the vision for healthcare in the Obama administration, I have yet to truly learn about what actually happened. As I continue to speak with professionals in the field, I hope to delve into more of the politics surrounding healthcare as well as the recent affects such changes in DC have affected institutions down here in DFW.