Healthcare in the United States is broken and unsustainable. Major health reform is needed to cover the uninsured. Lack of insurance worsens disease and weakens the economy. The effectiveness of medical interventions, particularly medical technologies and pharmaceuticals, continues to increase, improving health and longevity and demand for health services. However, about one in six people - 46.6 million - lacked insurance for all of 2005, according to the US Census Bureau, an increase of 6.8 million since 2000. More than eight out of ten of the uninsured are in working families.

Those in favor of universal health care argue that it would provide healthcare to people who currently do not have it. Opponents of universal healthcare argue that universal healthcare will require higher taxes, and a great likelihood of poorly performing healthcare facilities and physicians. These opponents also claim the absence of a market mechanism may slow innovation in treatment and research and lead to rationing of care through waiting lists. Both sides of the political system have debated whether or not people have a fundamental right to have health care provided to them by the government.

The benefits of universal coverage based on a plan similar to the original Clinton reform effort will enrich all Americans in terms of improved health and longer life span. Greater economic productivity, financial security and the stabilization of community health care systems will result. Unless universal coverage can be assured, the nation will continue to suffer the unintended consequences of the status quo.