

Remarks for Public Hearing on Health care in NYS  
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Monroe Community College  
Rochester, NY

My name is Judy Schwartz and I am a member of Women of Reform Judaism and chair of the local chapter of Interfaith IMPACT of NYS. Just a few years ago the topic of Interfaith IMPACT's annual Legislative Briefing was universal health care with Dr. Rudy Mueller of Jamestown, NY and author of AS SICK AS IT GETS. However, I am speaking on my own behalf as a very concerned citizen.

First, health care should not be tied to employment. That concept is completely unfair as more and more people are self-employed and the bureaucracy is a nightmare.

Secondly, the single payer method should be implemented. This would eliminate HMO's, which have harmed more than helped health care. They really are health money organizations not health maintenance organizations. Doctors are rewarded for the more patients they see and for shorter periods of time. To put it succinctly, HMO's are dictating our health care, not the medical profession.

Lastly, everyone in the United States should have equal health care. Our health care should be equal to the best for our elected officials at whatever level that occurs. For elected officials in Washington on down, to sit in their respective chambers day in and day out and never admit to this unequal condition is unconscionable. We are all human beings and deserving of equal health care. No segment of our population, especially elected officials- who by the way are supposed to represent us- deserves better health care than another.

The time is long overdue to fix our sick health care system. Thank you for this opportunity to voice my concerns and suggestions.