

Americans, whether registered as Democrats, Republicans, Greens or Independents want real change for our country, not just “business as usual.” One of the most pressing crises we face is our rapidly deteriorating public health. Unfortunately, neither Establishment Democrats nor Republicans appear ready to “bite the hand that feeds them” - Big Pharma, insurance companies, junk food conglomerates, corporate agribusiness and chemical polluters. We need a real solution in terms of effective and affordable healthcare and public policy that addresses the underlying causes of rampant disease and sickness, not just the symptoms.

The root cause leading to the world’s most expensive system of sick care is the self-destructive lifestyle choices or addictions of a large part of the population. Add to that the medical establishment’s failure to focus on prevention and nutrition and you have disease epidemics that are overwhelming the system. The everyday behavior of consumers in our Fast Food nation, compounded by the routine “profit at any cost” contamination of our environment, have not only degenerated public health, but have also raised healthcare costs to the point where they are threatening to bankrupt not only individual citizens but our entire economic system.

We literally cannot afford to provide universal healthcare for all if our medical model is focused on treating rather than preventing the serious and widespread sicknesses of both the young and old of our community and nation. However, with the right preventive and holistic approach, we could easily afford Medicare for All and it would cost much less for both consumers, employers and the government than what we are spending now.

We do not need socialized medicine, accessible to everyone regardless of his or her income level. But we do need universal healthcare based upon a fundamentally different model, a model where we stop just treating the symptoms of our degenerating public health and start treating the causes.

The problem is clear. The solution is obvious. The multi trillion-dollar life or death question is, can we overcome our partisan and sectarian divisions and mobilize the grassroots power of the many Americans who are sick and tired of living in a degenerating nation in free fall? Can we heal the split between proponents of conventional medicine and the alternative health consumer movement to create pressure that will force our currently indentured politicians to “do the right thing?” And most importantly can we figure out how to change people’s self-destructive eating and lifestyle decisions, while still respecting their individual liberty?