

WE NEED UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE

By Richard Duffee

We average 4.6 years lower life expectancy than Japanese citizens have. There are about 293 million of us, so we're losing about 1.35 billion years of life compared to the Japanese.

Only two countries on earth, Lebanon and Togo, spend as great a percentage of their GDP on private health care as the US does: 8%. Only 17 other countries spend more than 4% of their GDP on private health care: Switzerland, Greece, Cyprus, Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, Bosnia, Armenia, Suriname, Jordan, El Salvador, South Africa, India, Haiti, Guinea, Cote d'Ivoire, Malawi. Are those the countries with good health care? Of course not: high life expectancy is a feature of countries with higher PUBLIC expenditure on health, not private expenditure. We have the health care system the rich want us to have because they don't want to pay their share of public health care.

Among the 25 most developed countries, only one, Denmark, has lower life expectancy (77.2 years to our 77.4). It's an outrageous lie to claim the US has good medical care. We only have the world's most expensive medical care, the world's highest drug prices, the world's highest health insurance rates, the world's highest malpractice insurance rates, and the largest percentage of uncared-for people in the developed world.