

# Health care for all

Published on Wednesday, Aug 15, 2007

We recently saw the movie *Sicko*, a must-see for every American. As we left the theater, we heard comments both pro and con about its producer/director, Michael Moore.

But what no one could deny was the movie's universal message: We live in the most prosperous nation in the world, believing everything we have is the finest, but many other nations, including some of the poorest, deliver better health care to their citizens (without excessive taxes and without bankrupting their treasuries).

*Sicko's* motive is not to promote its producer, as some might believe, but to show how the powerful health-care industry of this country has taken away every American's rights of life and the pursuit of happiness. This movie exposes this industry for exactly what it is: corporations out to make a profit at the expense of the American people. After all, they are not in business to provide or care for your health and well-being, but to turn a profit for their shareholders.

Washington, D.C., is filled with so many of their employees disguised as members of Congress. They all talk a good deal about health reforms, yet no reforms are to be found.

Diseases and accidents do not discriminate. They affect all Americans, regardless of race, religion, class or political affiliation.

On the other hand, health-insurance companies do discriminate against every American by denial of coverage. They refuse it to their policyholders and will deny necessary testing or procedures ordered by a physician for the sake of profits.

As practicing physicians, let us simply say the proposals suggested by the presidential candidates are nothing more than Band-Aids placed on a crack in the Hoover Dam, spoken by people who have little knowledge or insight into real solutions. Most solutions do not even necessitate the use of the dreaded "T" word (tax) but, rather, the elimination of wasted funds and better use of available resources.

We're all in this together. We can make a difference by demanding universal health care. Vote for representatives who support this. Support SPAN Ohio, our state version for universal health care. Support HR 676, the bill by Democratic U.S. Rep. John Conyers of Michigan that supports universal health care. Together, we can provide health care for all Americans.

Eileen Kroll Goldman, M.D. George Goldman, M.D. Akron