

## ★ **The Case for Universal Health Care**

**David Colton**

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With hope and a delineated path to health care overhaul, David Colton's *The Case for Universal Health Care* is cogent in arguing for a system of uniform benefits for all.

Colton argues that Americans are resistant to universal health care because they are misinformed about how health care works. The book's three comprehensive sections begin with a detailed overview of the current fee-for-service health care model, explaining how health care services are delivered. The second section is eye opening with its accounts of how public monies already cover myriad aspects of health care—over 50% of Americans receive a form of tax-supported care.

Analyzing working universal health care systems in France, Canada, the UK, and Japan, the book shows that UHC is a realistic and worthwhile goal. Its third section outlines a single-payer model in which administrative costs are cut through easier, more efficient billing and that focuses on preventative care. In the presented model, uniform benefits would extend to all; a standardized, government-negotiated fee schedule would regulate health care service costs and the cost of prescription drugs.

Moral arguments, and arguments around obligations, also build into the book's promotion of UHC. It asserts that funding the plan through taxes on purchases would be a fair way to gain contributions from all. It also addresses the hot issue of health care costs, showing that provider competition did not drive down costs as fee-for-service advocates claimed. It shows that American citizens cross the Canadian border to access less expensive drugs, about which critics warn that quality control is unverified, despite coming from some of the same companies responsible for American pharmaceuticals.

Beginning with educational information and building a solid argument for universal health care, *The Case for Universal Health Care*'s plan seems not only feasible, but necessary.

TANISHA RULE (November / December 2019)

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