



GOVERNMENT HEALTH POLICIES AND OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY

Trinity Memorial Church Forum Discussion

Presented by: Teddy Aribisala

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Introduction

Appreciation:

- **Lea Recibe Aribisala**
- **John Chafee**
- **Trinity Memorial Episcopal Church Congregants**

Government health policies directly affect our everyday lives—our access to care, costs, health status, **life expectancy**, and our well-being or quality of life. (heaven and death allegory)

As a church community, it's important that we **understand** these policies and **stay engaged**, so we can **advocate** for what truly supports the health, our dignity and everyone else's around us.

Faith & Healthcare

- Caring for the body as part of stewardship
- Supporting one another in illness, and health
- Role of church community in care and advocacy

Linking healthcare access to:

- **Christian compassion-** Matthew 25:26, *"I was sick and you looked after me... Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."*
- **Justice-** Isaiah 1:17, *"Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed."*
- **Care for the vulnerable-** Luke 24:18, *"He has sent me to proclaim good news to the poor... recovery of sight for the blind"*

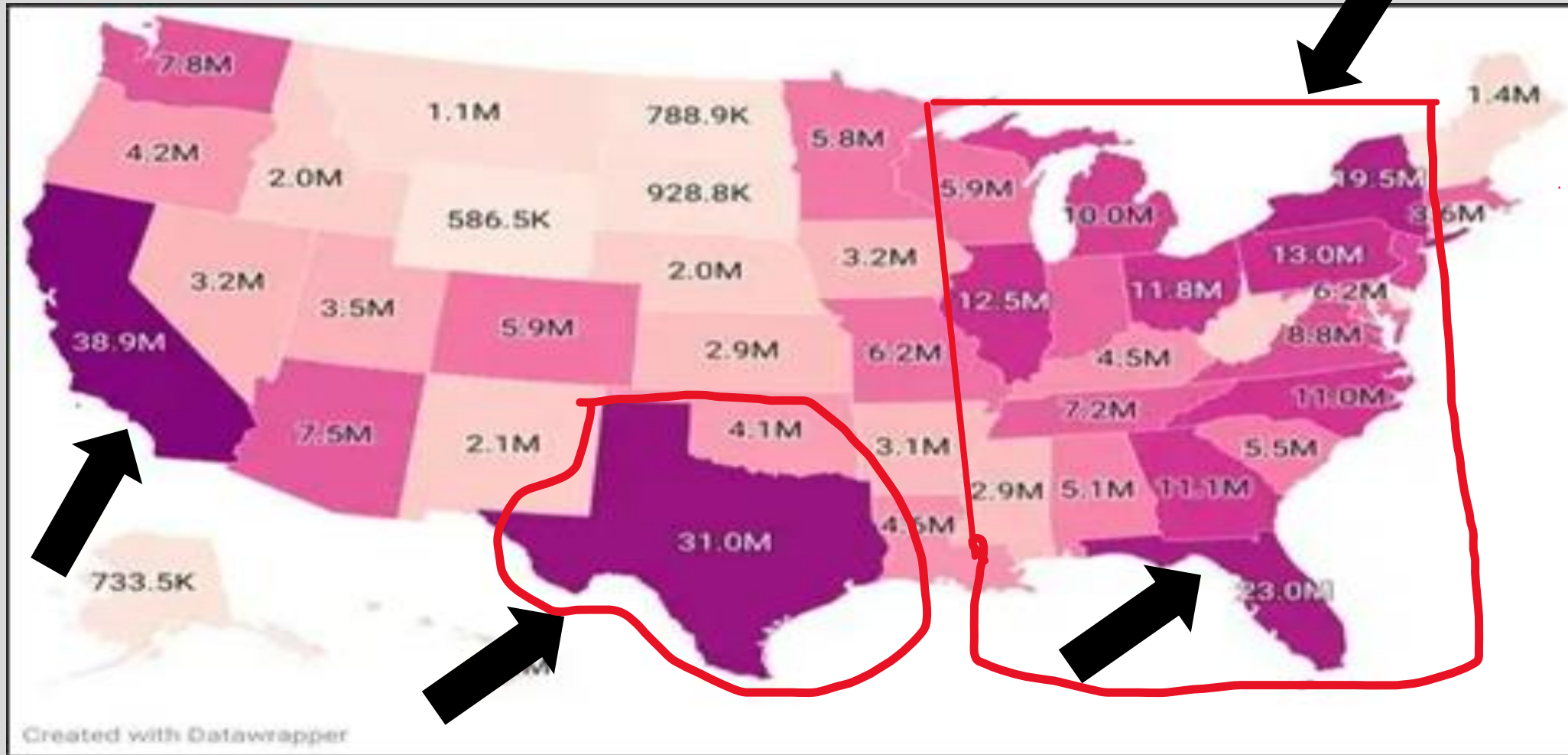
Goals

Dispassionately Discuss government health policies, effect on average congregant at Trinity and identify actions we can take.

- Government
- Church leadership
- Individuals;

Fellow Mature citizens - *32.9 mill vs 19 mill in NYS*

Where Are The Older Citizens



Policy Overview

Who makes hospital rules:

Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

-Direct/ Indirect



NY State Department of Health



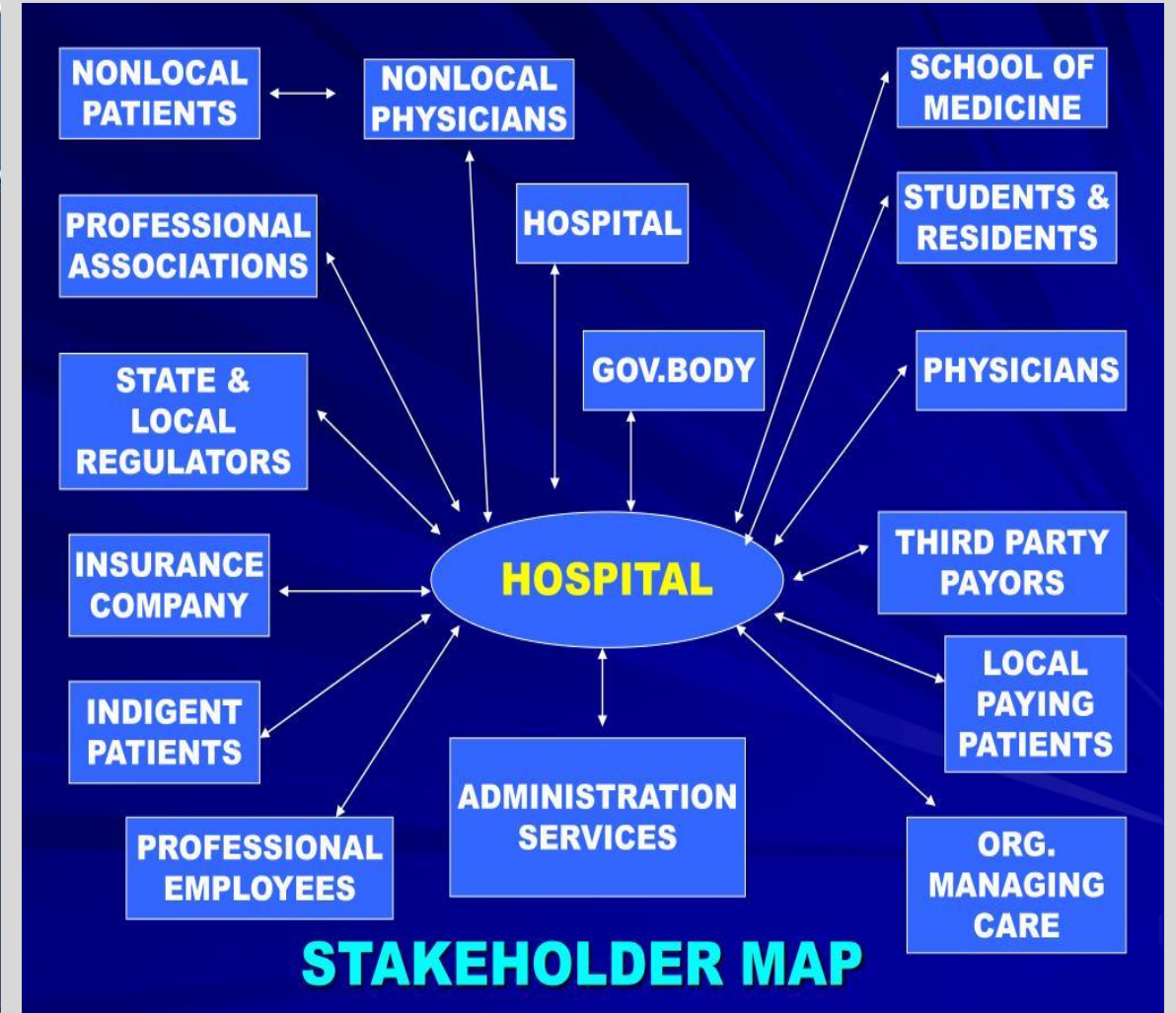
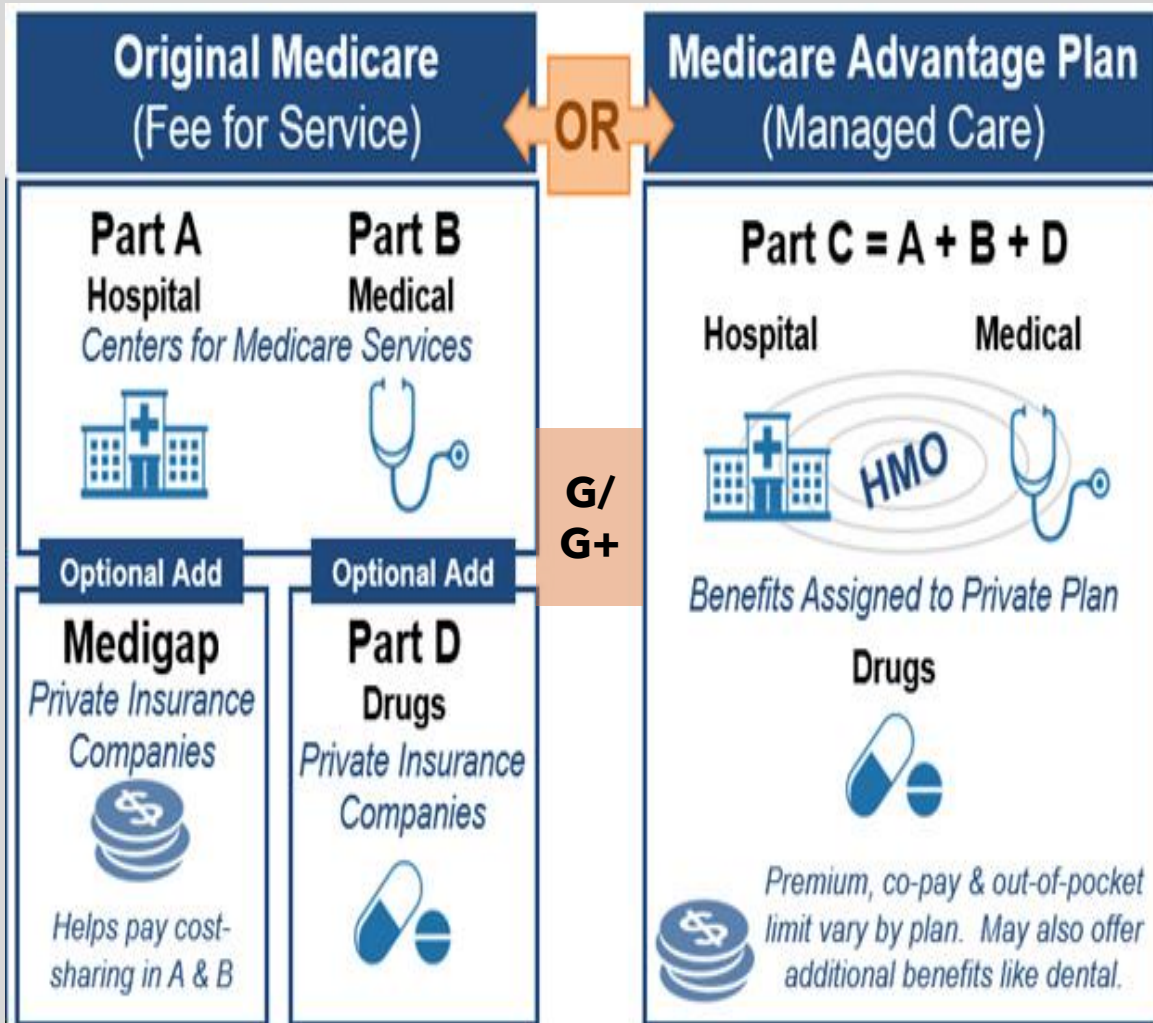
Hospital leadership, Boards, Senior Executives only

Why These Matter

Many of us deal with:

- Doctor visits
- Pharmacy prescriptions
- Medicare coverage
- Hospital stays
- We are mostly in the twilight of our lives; advocacy, and planning

Medicare Coverage and Those Hospitals Serve



Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services

What CMS KPI:

- **Safety**
- **Patient experience**
 - Unequal care*
- **Efficiency**: Ideally Top- 10/10 (European), 15/110 (World),
7/32 wealthy countries
- **Outcomes**:

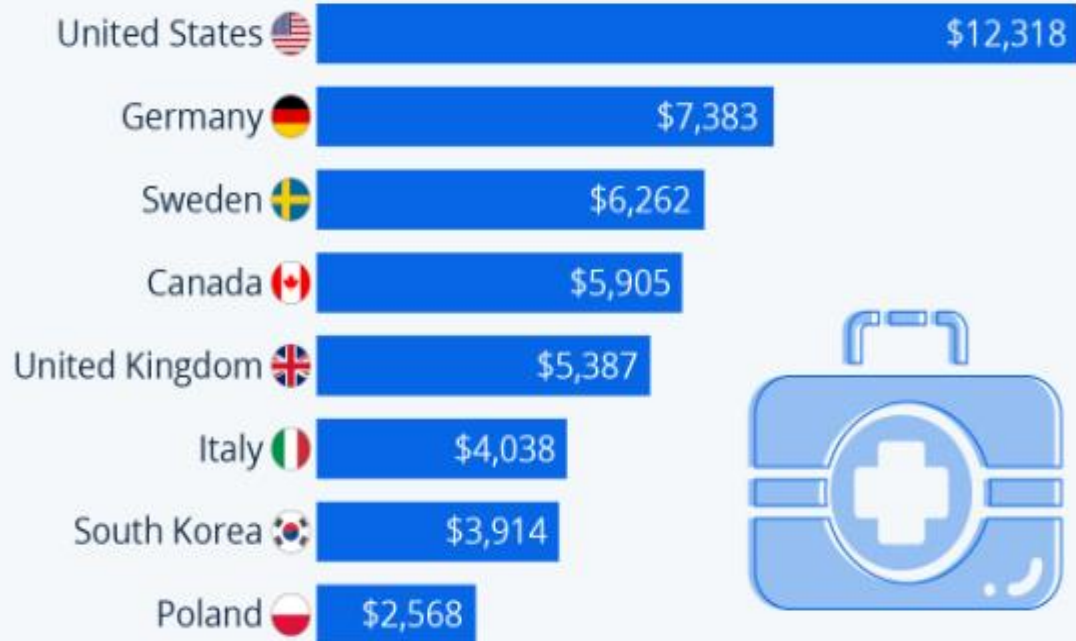
White House Focus in 2025-2026 (Great Healthcare Plan- Announced January 2026)

- Drug-Pricing Measures and “Most Favored Nation” Policy
- Shift in ACA Subsidy Structure
- Insurance Premium and Cost-Reduction Proposals
- Price Transparency Expansion
- Congressional Push for a New Health-Care Framework
- Federal Budget & Government Restructuring
- Science, Research, and Academia shrinkage (*1300 CDC, 1300 at CDC, and 3500 at FDA, 10,000 at CMS, lost their jobs in 2025*)

Health Cost in US vs Developed Countries

The U.S. Has the Most Expensive Healthcare in the World

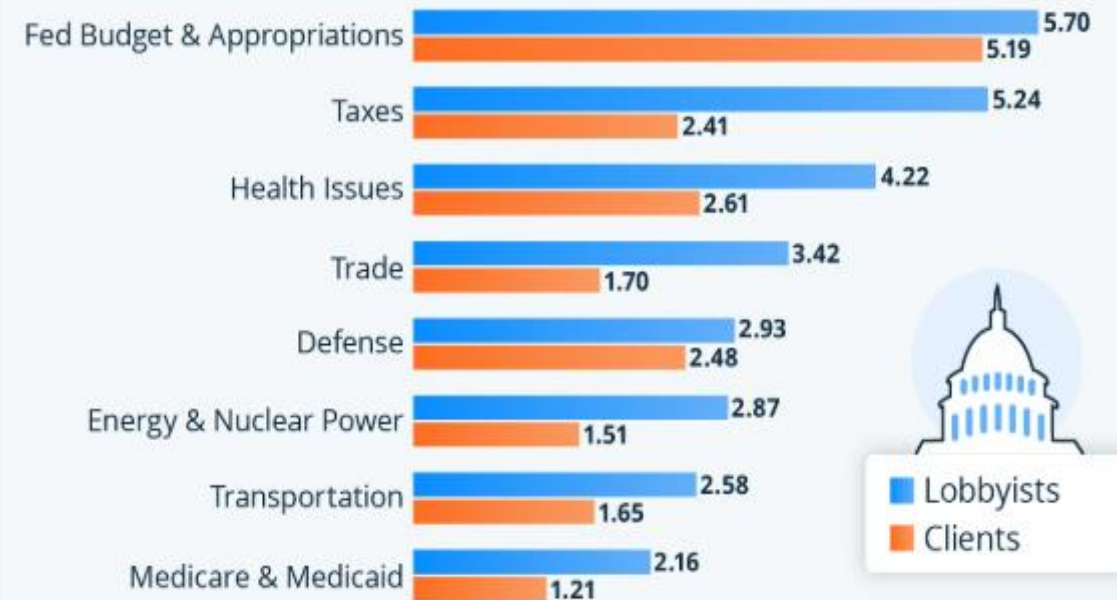
Per-capita health expenditure in selected countries in 2021



Includes government and private/compulsory and voluntary spending
Source: OECD

The Issues Dominating Washington's Lobbying Scene

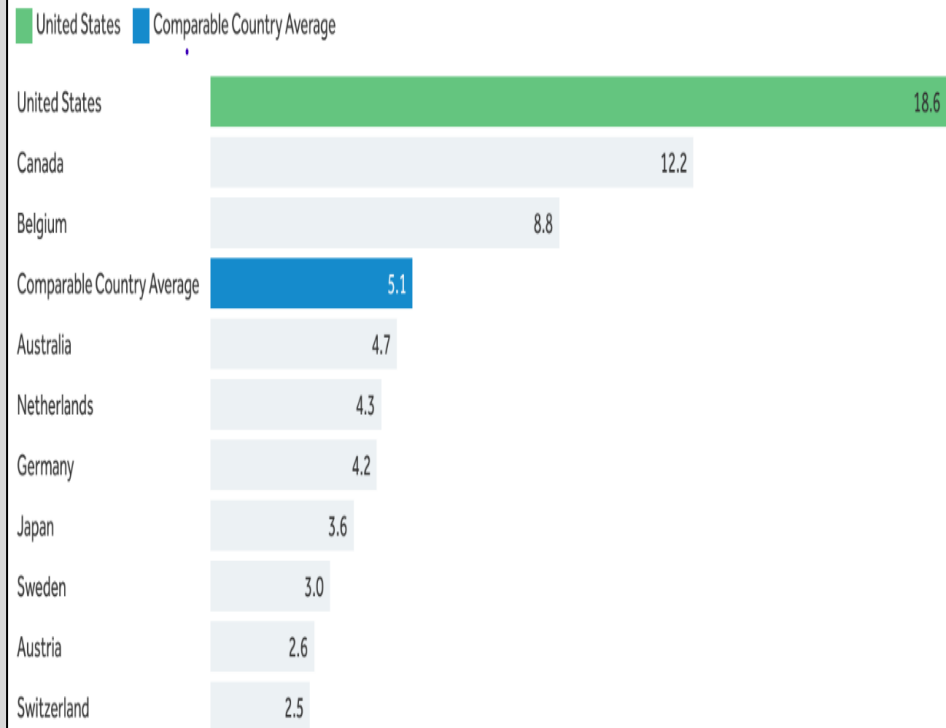
Most lobbied issues in the United States in 2025, by total number of lobbyists and clients (in thousands)



Data from the Senate Office of Public Records. Each client may report lobbying on multiple issues.
Source: OpenSecrets

Health Outcomes in US vs Developed Countries

Maternal mortality rate per 100,000 live births, 2023 (or latest year available)



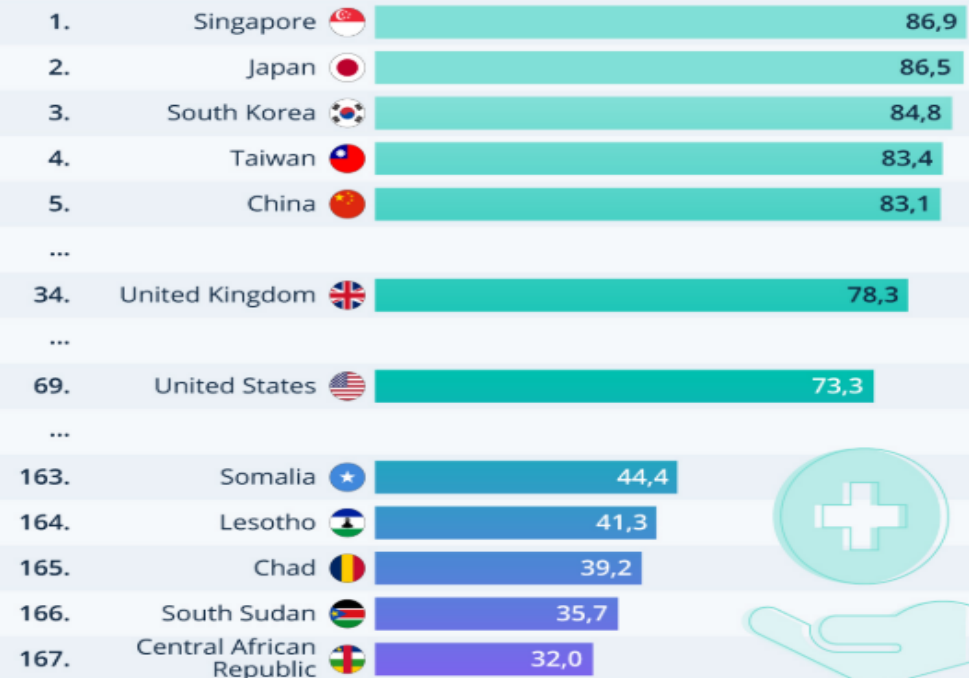
Note: Data for the Netherlands is estimated. Data for Australia and Belgium are from 2022. Australia's definition differs.

Source KFF analysis of OECD

Peterson-KFF
Health System Tracker

The Healthiest (& Unhealthiest) Countries in the World

Health and health care system index scores by country (100=best possible score)



* Based on people's health, access to health services, health outcomes, health systems, illness and risk factors, mortality rates. 2022 or latest available

Source: Legatum Institute Foundation

.....A Few Moments Later.....

Executive order to reduce ACA subsidies; Jan. 2026

Impact:

- **Rising Premiums**; 20%-100%; choosing less coverage but coverage
- **Subsidies eliminated**; 20 millions
- **Declining enrolment**; 12 million not covered due to economic effect.

2026 Presidential (CMS) Initiatives Contd.

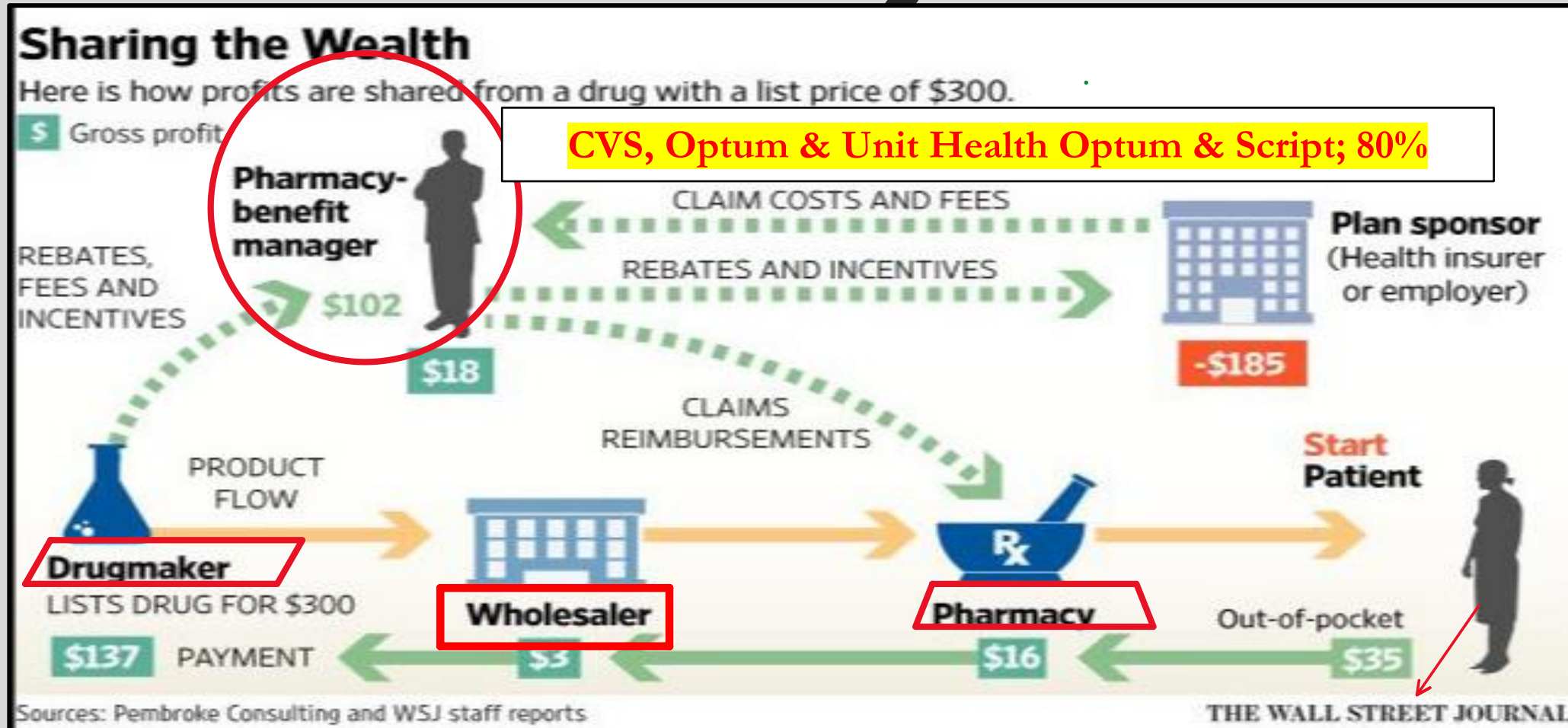
- **Renewed focus on hospital and insurer transparency rules, and reduce drug costs.**
- **Impact on matured population:** Modest gains
- **Better outcomes**

2026 Presidential (CMS) Initiatives Contd.

Laying the groundwork for a new federal affordability framework, and control, **Pharmacy-Benefit Manager aka "Intermediaries"**

- **What happened:** Throughout 2025, administration officials and allies floated ideas that would later appear in the 2026 "Great Healthcare Plan"
- **Impact:** So far unrealized. Govt cannot negotiate prices, no national controls for drugs.

2026 Presidential (CMS) Initiatives: Reduce Drug Cost



CVS, Optum & Unit Health Optum & Script; 80%

***30% seniors report skipping doses, prices are artificially inflated

Responsibilities

- **Church leadership**

- Strengthen the Pastoral Care Committee
- Host Medicare expert on Forums, on how to navigate through it, to optimize the benefits
- Invite to host Health screening, after service, in the summer months
- Share local resources with congregations, network with other churches in town.

- **Lawmakers: (Advocacy)**

- Support candidates who align with your healthcare priorities, not parties. Lawmakers pay attention when constituents speak up
- Start by identifying your elected officials at all level
- Data matters, but **stories move decisions**.
- Engage in Public Forums, City Council Meetings, and lawmakers' town hall meetings.

Individual Responsibilities

- Put legal documents in place before you need them -
 - Durable Power of Atty, Healthcare Proxy, and Living Will
- Review Durable Power of Atty, Healthcare Proxy, and Living Will periodically
- Preferably, use a Trust, instead of full control.
- Choose the right person/s (not someone who is in debt, has control issue, someone who will benefit much from the power.
- Choose responsible, and transparent family member/s, trusted friend, attorney, fiduciary, co-agents.
- Build in, oversight- regular accountability to each co-agent regularly, give a 3rd party access to review, limit large transactions with a second signature.
- Make sure other people in the family, and friends, know your plan (in a dated writing), your lawyer.
- Put your wishes in writing, date it, and sign it, be specific.
- Watch the movie, BAD GUARDIAN, on Netflix

Sources

- White House Executive Order
- [What to expect in US healthcare in 2025 and beyond | McKinsey](#)
- [2025 US health care outlook | Deloitte Insights](#)
- [Healthcare Forecast 2025: Trends Shaping the Year Ahead](#)
- [Health care transformation and growth: 2025 and beyond | EY - US](#)
- [FDA Layoffs: 3,500 Employees Officially Terminated in Major Staff Reduction](#)
- https://chatgpt.com/s/m_69b1e5958b20819186a22eb575f2261f
- [Older Adults Outnumber Children in 11 States, Nearly Half of Counties](#)
- https://responsivegov.org/research/voting-policy-and-health-evidence-as-a-call-to-action-for-health-professionals-organizations-and-institutions/?utm_source=chatgpt.com

Sources Contd.

- https://www.ncoa.org/advocates/public-policy/advocacy-basics/?utm_source=chatgpt.com
- https://medicareadvocacy.org/take-action/?utm_source=chatgpt.com
- https://seniorsleague.org/agenda/?utm_source=chatgpt.com
- https://www.geron.org/Advocacy/How-to-Advocate-for-Aging-Issues/Public-Policy-Advocacy-The-Basics?utm_source=chatgpt.com
- https://seniorsite.org/resource/the-essential-guide-to-senior-citizen-advocacy-protect-your-communitys-elders/?utm_source=chatgpt.com

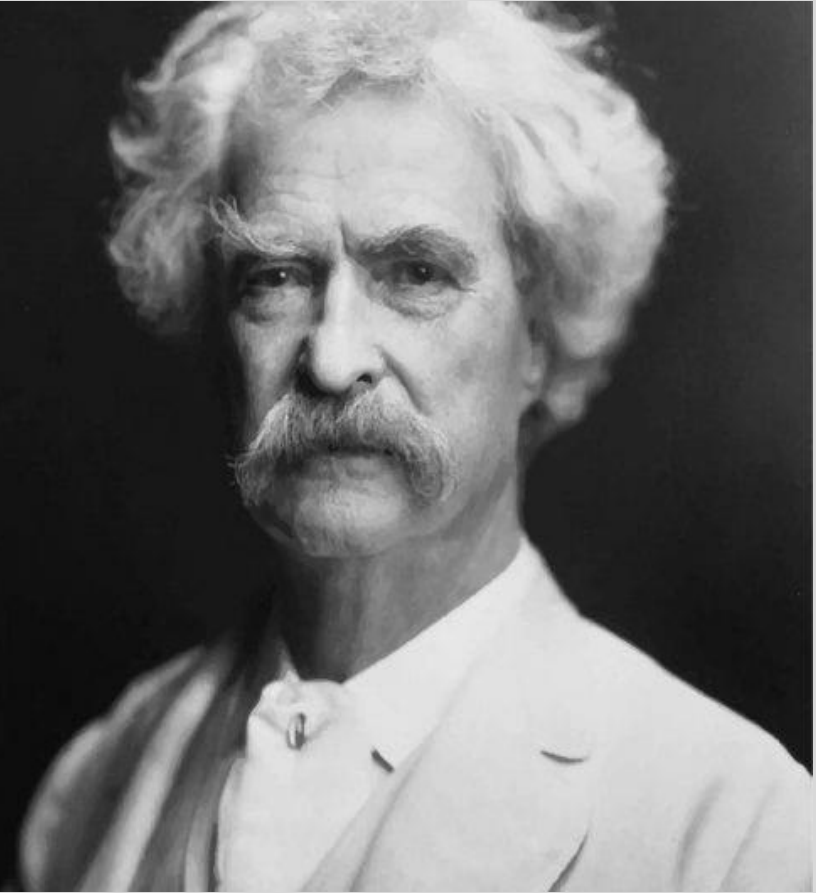
Toolkit subject:

- https://www.medicareinteractive.org/resources/medicare-advocacy-toolkit-series?utm_source=chatgpt.com
- https://www.nyspha.org/NYSPHA-Advocacy-Tool?utm_source=chatgpt.com
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- https://aging.ny.gov/programs/medicare-and-health-insurance?utm_source=chatgpt.com

Conclusion

It ain't what you don't know
that gets you into trouble. It's
what you know for sure that
just ain't so.

Mark Twain



Thank You!

Questions & Open Discussion