

Health Care Military Style – The Leslie Doss Center: Perhaps a Fiscal, Political, and Humanitarian Imperative

Single payer is typically too expensive, too political, and often [brutal](#) through [long waits](#) and no accountability for shoddy service. Single payer policies highlight the often overlooked [differences between health insurance, health care, and medical care](#). There are many strong proponents of a much larger role for market-based approaches. That means a supply-and-demand-driven price system orchestrates what is produced, where, how, and for whom. But even if an objective assessment (IOPA-style) were to support that route, it may still be politically infeasible.

Since there are already a lot of scholars researching health care policy, and advocating their Plan A, IOPA will focus on exploring Plan B reform proposals, especially military style health care (MSHC) for all. [Hypothesis A](#): military-style care for all is much less costly because it eliminates the free and deeply discounted – because of third party-financed - health care shopping that drives up costs and clogs the system. [Hypothesis B](#): we might be able to further increase the efficiency of MSHC through a well-designed opt into a free market in medical care and health care. That opt-in option would also foster medical entrepreneurship and inform society about the nature of market dynamics for health and medical care. Comparable to K-12 strategies, we'd need health/medical savings accounts to level the financial playing field between the taxpayer-funded military-style care and entrepreneur-created alternatives.

The Plan B mindset means examining policy regimes that result from health care reform advocates finishing this sentence: If we can't have our Plan A, we should go with [their Plan B]. For example, there are many strong proponents of 'single payer' approaches to health and medical care. From their perspective, what is Plan B? Maybe through IOPA-led insightful research, military-style care becomes the most popular Plan B?

The importance of this area of research extends beyond the desire to efficiently and equitably maximize life quality and duration. Health care is such a large federal expenditure, with increased demand virtually certain in most countries, that health care reforms will be a key determinant of the nature of sustainable federal fiscal practices.

Revisit this page, periodically, to observe our progress in this research area. Hopefully, by your next visit, we will have a request for a proposal posted. Once we have an analysis completed, we will commission a review from a scholar likely to be a basis for civil, informed disagreement, and create conversation forums for further assessment. To be involved in any aspect of the process, e-mail us at: IOPACHief@policytalk.org