

**From:** [Jack Dresser](#)  
**To:** [Malone Debbie](#)  
**Subject:** HB 2922 testimony  
**Date:** Friday, May 10, 2013 11:14:36 AM

---

The U.S. Declaration of Independence states that “life” and “the pursuit of happiness” are “inalienable rights” and that “governments are instituted” in order “to secure these rights.”

Article 3 of the UN’s 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights identified “life” and “security of person” as basic human rights, subsequently enshrined as international law in 1976 within the International Bill of Rights.

Health care is clearly a necessary condition to guarantee these established rights, and a universal right cannot be treated as a commodity for private profit.

All other advanced industrial democracies provide universal health care administered at the national level. There are a variety of models mixing public and private revenue sources, almost entirely non-profit with any for-profit programs tightly regulated and largely limited to supplemental rather than basic plans.

These systems not only provide universal coverage but are less expensive per capita with better health outcomes than the US system, which is ranked 37<sup>th</sup> in the world by the WHO at a per capita cost approximately double the average cost of the better systems.

No health care dollars should go to private profits or redundant administrative costs of competing health care insurers. Our health care system administrators should be motivated solely to optimize health outcomes as a public trust, not to minimize costs and optimize profits for private gain.

*Jack Dresser, Ph.D.*

Health Behavior Research Scientist

Member, International Society of Political Psychology

National vice-chair, Palestine and Middle East Working Group, Veterans for Peace

Co-director, Al-Nakba Awareness Project

Co-director, Coalition for Universal Rights and Earth Restoration