

I've had multiple experiences with our healthcare system growing up, and one of the most devastating things you can hear is "How can I afford to see a doctor?". When I was entering middle school, my grandfather was diagnosed with late stage cancer. One of his final regrets was not seeing a doctor sooner. When you have to worry about the bill, it results in putting off medical care hoping things will just go away on their own or that you'll just be able to live with it. This was a death sentence for my grandfather, as by time he saw a doctor it was too late for him.

I also had forgone medical care when I was younger. I once plucked debris out of a gash in my leg and mended it myself, my family would pluck out and trim their ingrown toenails bearing the pain rather than going to a hospital for care, until they had to. When the ACA passed things got slightly better, with disastrous plans being removed and allowing me to stay on my parents healthplan for longer but the main issue still remained: If you go to get help, you're stuck worrying over the bill and whether you'll be able to pay it.

When I went to university, I ended up on medicaid after being removed from my parents plan. To this day, it was the best insurance I've ever had. Knowing I can go to the doctor and not worry about a bill after lifted so much weight off my back, allowing me to take care of problems before they could fester and grow worse. Removing this burden would be a major benefit for public health, allowing for preventative care to take care of problems before it can become worse.

Today, I'm no longer on medicaid. Thankfully I have decent insurance, but I still hesitate to get medical care out of fear of the bill, the fear that a single health emergency could wipe out my savings should something not be covered. This healthcare system is unsustainable, and any step towards a more humane and sensible healthcare is a welcome one.