

# Network Notes

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## American Healthcare - "Sicko"? By Brian Taylor

There is no better time to examine some of the myths and facts being thrown around in the American healthcare debate than the days immediately following the release of Michael Moore's movie "Sicko". In the interest of informing the discussion, please consider some facts that are often overlooked. In this first of four newsletter articles we will list some most-often-cited talking points used by reformers advocating the adoption of universal healthcare administered by the federal government.

In each of the next three articles we will examine 2-3 of these talking points and then pair those points with facts painstakingly researched by Greg Datillo and Dave Racer. These authors co-wrote two separate but related works in 2006 and 2007 to more fully inform the debate.

While there are many, the following typify the most commonly cited points when reformers speak of "...a health care crisis of unprecedented magnitude...":

\* Private insurance companies drive up the cost of health insurance through their high administrative costs and

profits.

\* Government administration cost is far less than that of private industry.

\* U.S. health care quality is sorely lacking, falling behind foreign health care systems, even though we spend far more health care dollars than any other country.

\* Since our health care system is failing, we rank far behind other countries in infant mortality and life expectancy.

\* Nearly 46 million Americans, or more, cannot get health care because they are uninsured.

\* Private health insurance is no longer affordable, except for wealthy people.

\* Other modern foreign countries deliver more and better services under their universal health care plan than the US does.

\* Americans would be better off if the US adopted government-run, or single-payer health care systems, like those of Europe and Canada.

While we will go into more depth in our next newsletter article, here is something to consider in the meantime: in almost any

survey of public opinion, private insurance administrative costs and profits are thought to be anywhere between 20-40% of health care income (commonly defined as premium).

**FACTS:** The administrative costs of Medicare (administered by private corporations) are 3% of health care income; the administrative costs of private insurance are 9.9%; Federally-administered health care administrative costs are 14.7%, while state-administered health care administrative costs are 20%+.

Where does that leave us with respect to the first two talking points? Tune in next time for more exciting, and different, perspectives.

**Featured Member**



Brian Taylor

**Worksite Solutions, LLC**  
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**Civic Involvement:**

**Metrobon Kiwanis**

**Recording for the Blind**

## In the Good 'Ol Summertime!!!

What a stretch of weather we're having in July! Here's hoping you summer holidays and vacations have been invigorating and, most of all, FUN!

GLN members are visible all over town, taking part in church picnics, civic club activities and cruising in their new Corvettes (Tony Backert).

A number of our members

are members of the Metrobon Kiwanis Club. Each year, this club runs the concession stand at Homearama Louisville. This year's event is being held July 14-29 at Beech Spring Farms off of Barbour Lane. Please stop by and say Hi!

Metrobon Kiwanis supports a number of Louisville Charities including the Salvation Army and Wayside Christian Mission. We "Serve the Children of the World!"