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Research Outline

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A. Executive Summary

Obama Care is a phrase coined to refer to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act introduced in the United States by the Obama administration on March 23, 2010. The act was introduced as a policy aimed at increasing the number of people accessing medical care through insurance covers in the country. This paper discusses Obama care from the perspective of the problem of Americans lacking health insurance, the Obama care program/law, and the alternatives to Obama care. The paper will discuss in detail the perennial problem of Americans lacking health insurance and access to good healthcare, the Obama Care program/law and its impacts on the American economy, and then provide alternatives to Obama Care including the single-payer system as practiced in Canada and the American Health Care Act as proposed by the republicans.

B. Problem statement

There has been an increased spending in the American healthcare system. In fact, the country is number one in the world in terms of the high level of spending on healthcare services. Private insurers are the main feature of the American healthcare system (Barack, 2016). Research has also indicated that there are huge amounts of money trapped in the healthcare systems in the United States. It has also been reflected that the healthcare system has experienced an increase in the administration costs thus leading to increased spending (Brill, 2015). The private insurance also is mainly reliant on the fee for service model. As noted in this discussion, the fee for service has been attributed as the cause of the increased spending. The problem is that increased spending lowers the quality and challenges the affordability of healthcare for all. To address this problem, the paper will answer the following research questions:

1. What is the historical background of the American healthcare system and health insurance?
2. What constitutes the Affordable Care Act introduced under the Obama administration?
3. What were the impacts of the Affordable Care Act on the American economy?
4. Are there any alternatives to the Affordable Care Act?

C. Historical background of the problem

By year 2004, there were over 46 million uninsured people. This indicated that the country continued to experience an erosion of health insurance among the population (Randall, 2006). The eroding insurance was coupled with the increasing healthcare costs thus raising concerns among the public. According to a research by the Commonwealth Survey, it was found out that among the American families, lack of health insurance remains one of the biggest challenges (Shartzler, Long, & Anderson, 2016). Over the last years, the national health care spending has increased by 7 percent. This is an indication that there is a huge number of Americans who cannot afford healthcare services.

D. The main players or actors involved

The healthcare issue has been politicized. There are two lines of divide including the Democrats and Republicans. Both have advanced different perspectives in terms of effective healthcare systems. The democrats have lobbied for the Obama care system while the republicans lobby for a change in the system to American health care act and the single payer system.

E. Discussion of related literature

Vast literature has been written in relations to Americans lacking health insurance coverage. Research by Sommers et al. (2014), Barack (2016), and Robert (2017) diversify the in depth discussions of the history of American health. Other studies including Omolola et al. (2015) and Sommers et al. (2014) address the issue of solutions provided to solve the increasing number of Americans without health insurance. Across magazines and newspaper reports including New York Times, Washington post, CNN, and BBC among others, there have been news reports regarding the progress of American health system. However, no adequate research has been conducted to evaluate Affordable Care Act also known as Obama care. The lack of a thorough analysis has challenged the ability of researchers to adequately explain on its strengths and weaknesses. Therefore, a gap of knowledge exists in the context of understanding whether Affordable Care Act has been a success or a failure and whether other alternatives could be a possibility in improving the American healthcare systems.

F. Alternative solutions

Obama care was introduced as a solution to the increased number of the uninsured Americans who could not afford to pay for their healthcare services (Barack, 2016). However, it is challenged as a threat to the growth of the economy. It has increased taxation among the wealthy, which discourages investment. It also has been challenged for lack of proper controls in the competition among the private insurers (Brill, 2015).

There are two main alternatives proposed for Obama care. These include the single-payer system as practiced in Canada and the American Health Care Act as proposed by the republicans. The concept behind the two proposals is to reduce taxation among the population and centralize the management and regulation of the healthcare system. The objective is to centralize and unify the healthcare service delivery among all the Americans.

G. Implementation at the national level

The major alternative to Obama care is the single-payer system as practiced in Canada. To implement this at the national level, Barack (2016) explained that it involves the government being the sole collector of taxes. The taxes are predetermined by the government as the sole institutions which would be enough to cover the related healthcare costs. This would prevent every individual from buying their own private insurance.

H. Government approach to implement the alternative

The government approach is to ensure that it is mandatory for all citizens to pay predetermined taxes. Through such a collection, the government then mandates the healthcare institutions to provide healthcare services equally to all people (Sommers et al., 2014). Then the role of the government is to cover for the total bills accrued within the respective healthcare institutions across the country.

I. Mechanism to evaluate the policy

To evaluate the effectiveness of this policy, it is important for the government to play the central role. This includes evaluating the new system based on four main dimensions including

the revenue collection, efficiency, and equity. The works of Barack (2016) explained that the three dimensions represent a good measure of an effective healthcare system. In this case, evaluating the structure to be used in revenue collection, evaluating how effective and equitable the new system would be is important in evaluating the effectiveness of the policy.

J. Resources utilized

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