

# **SHOCK THERAPY FOR AMERICA'S HEALTH CARE SYSTEM: Why Comprehensive Reform is Needed**

**By Dr. Robert Levine**

*“So let me be clear. If we do not control these [health care] costs, we will not be able to control our deficit.”*

--President Barack Obama in his July 22, 2009 press conference.

America spends more per person on healthcare than any other nation: 17 percent of the economy or \$2.5 trillion – and rising. In spite of this, America's health outcomes from infant mortality to life expectancy are lower than most other developed nations and 47 million people are uninsured.

Relying on the free market has led to escalating costs, more government spending, budget deficits and unfunded liabilities. The U.S. spends more than \$1 trillion on unnecessary care and administrative costs of the \$2.5 trillion spent annually on health care. But Dr. Robert Levine, author of **SHOCK THERAPY FOR AMERICA'S HEALTH CARE SYSTEM: Why Comprehensive Reform is Needed**, has a new approach straight from the trenches.

Dr. Levine, a practicing neurologist, former Chief of Neurology at Norwalk Hospital in Connecticut and Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine at Yale University Medical School, presents a clear diagnosis of the problems plaguing our health care infrastructure and explains the roles of the various parties – insurance companies, big pharmaceutical companies, hospitals, health care providers and patients.

His assessment includes:

- An explanation of why comprehensive reform is absolutely vital to the nation's well being and economic health as well as the consequences of forgoing reform.
- A unique program of universal coverage and improved care that will add no additional cost to the government or taxpayers.

- Areas in our current system where huge savings could be found.
- A no-holds-barred look at the obstacles the opposition will present.

Levine asserts that in order to cut administrative costs we need a single-payer system and to put all physicians on salary to prevent profit-driven medical practices. He suggests creating an agency like the Federal Reserve Board to control these changes. In spite of almost certain allegations of “socialized medicine” and government interference in medical care, the author shows why we need to enact these reforms to control spending, budget deficits and national debt.

**SHOCK THERAPY FOR AMERICA’S HEALTH CARE SYSTEM** proposes the following specifics including:

- Extension of Medicare to provide universal access to health care in a single-payer system
- Universal Medicare run by a Federal Medicare Board
- Universal Medicare with a fixed budget
- Regional entities managing care in different geographic areas
- Electronic health records for all patients
- Malpractice reform to curtail defensive medicine and combat negligence

Dr. Levine backs his proposals with hard facts and shows how we can avert economic disaster by providing achievable and affordable healthcare reform for every American.

*Dr. Robert Levine is a neurologist in private practice in Norwalk, Connecticut and the author of Defying Dementia and Aging with Attitude, winner of a Choice Award of the American Library Association.*

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