

Testimony for Single-payer Healthcare-

Chairman Brinkman, Vice-chair Henne and Members of the Ohio House insurance committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 440,

My name is Mark Dent, I honorably served our country in the U.S. Army as a JAG Attorney. As an attorney, I compared the case I was working on to other similar cases to determine how best to proceed. That is how I look at our healthcare.

When I look at similar rich industrialized nations and their healthcare systems, I can only conclude that we have failed.

We pay twice as much as other industrialized nation for our healthcare and what do we get?

We pay twice as much and have lower life expectancy, [figures released this month shows that it is getting worse, not better.]

We pay twice as much and cover fewer people.

We pay twice as much to see our doctors less often and have less preventative care.

We pay twice as much and have higher infant mortality. In fact, our infant mortality rate as a nation is in line with Cuba, we can't even keep our children alive.

We are told we have a capitalist system with markets that give us the best solutions but do we?

We give monopolies to drug companies and insist our citizens pay 7 times as much for the medicine that keeps them alive. Why? They need the money for research, yet Ford and GM spend more on research then drug companies do.

That is not capitalism, it is exploitation and extortion. Number one cause for bankruptcy- Medical bills.

You don't have to tell me our healthcare is broken, just ask anyone who has used it, they will tell you.

But it's complicated you say. Well, England has done a better job at figuring it out, Germany has, France has. Spain is on its way to have the highest life expectancy of any country on earth and Japan is currently ranked number one. What do they have in common? they pay 1/2 as much as we do and they regulate their healthcare industry.

Is there a better system out there that uses a market-based approach, maybe, but you have not come up with that yet. We know what works cause we've seen it in other countries and while no system is perfect, they all get better results than ours.

That said, I was on so-called 'socialized medicine' in the U.S. Military. When I needed healthcare, I would walk into any of the military hospitals, show my ID and I was taken care of. No forms to fill out. No co-pays. No insurance companies to fight with. I got expert care and never had to worry. What does this type of system cost? Surprisingly if our country moved to this system it would cost half of what we pay now and cover everyone. We would live longer, see our doctors more often and have better results.

I ask that you pass this bill and if not, come up with a system that provides better care to all our citizens at half the price.

If you can't do that you need to step aside and let those who can take your place.

Don't tell me it's too complicated, Germany, England, France, Canada, the list goes on they pay half the price for better care. They figured it out. We're the greatest nation on earth, can't we figure this out?

Thank you for taking the time to hear us on this important matter,

Mark Dent, Esq.

CAUTION: NOT TO BE USED FOR IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES

THIS IS AN IMPORTANT RECORD. SAFEGUARD IT.

ANY ALTERATIONS IN SHADED AREAS RENDER FORM VOID

CERTIFICATE OF RELEASE OR DISCHARGE FROM ACTIVE DUTY

1. NAME (Last/First/Middle) DENT WAYNE MARK		2. DEPARTMENT, COMPONENT AND BRANCH ARMY/USAR/JA		3. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER [REDACTED]		
4a. GRADE, RATE OR RANK CPT	b. PAY GRADE 003	5. DATE OF BIRTH (YYYYMMDD) [REDACTED]	6. RESERVE OBLIGATION TERMINATION DATE (YYYYMMDD) 00000000			
7a. PLACE OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE DUTY FORT POLK, LOUISIANA		b. HOME OF RECORD AT TIME OF ENTRY (City and state, or complete address if known) 1616 ESPOIR DR APT 5 B LEEVILLE LOUISIANA 71446				
8a. LAST DUTY ASSIGNMENT AND MAJOR COMMAND 0010AVBDE HHC REAR FC			b. STATION WHERE SEPARATED FORT DRUM, NY 13602			
9. COMMAND TO WHICH TRANSFERRED N/A			10. SGLI COVERAGE		NONE	
			AMOUNT: \$ 400,000.00			
11. PRIMARY SPECIALTY (List number, title and years and months in specialty. List additional specialty numbers and titles involving periods of one or more years.) 27A JUDGE ADVOCATE GEN - 2 YRS 11 MOS//NOTHING FOLLOWS		12. RECORD OF SERVICE		YEAR(S)	MONTH(S)	DAY(S)
		a. DATE ENTERED AD THIS PERIOD		2002	01	17
		b. SEPARATION DATE THIS PERIOD		2006	09	01
		c. NET ACTIVE SERVICE THIS PERIOD		0002	11	16
		d. TOTAL PRIOR ACTIVE SERVICE		0001	07	28
		e. TOTAL PRIOR INACTIVE SERVICE		0000	00	00
		f. FOREIGN SERVICE		0000	00	00
		g. SEA SERVICE		0000	00	00
		h. EFFECTIVE DATE OF PAY GRADE		2004	03	16
13. DECORATIONS, MEDALS, BADGES, CITATIONS AND CAMPAIGN RIBBONS AWARDED OR AUTHORIZED (All periods of service) ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL (2ND AWARD)//ARMY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL//GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM SERVICE MEDAL//ARMY SERVICE RIBBON//NOTHING FOLLOWS			14. MILITARY EDUCATION (Course title, number of weeks, and month and year completed) JUDGE ADVOC OFF BASIC COURSE, 16 WEEKS, 2003//NOTHING FOLLOWS			
15a. MEMBER CONTRIBUTED TO POST-VIETNAM ERA VETERANS' EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM			YES	X	NO	
b. HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE OR EQUIVALENT		X	YES		NO	
16. DAYS ACCRUED LEAVE PAID 14	17. MEMBER WAS PROVIDED COMPLETE DENTAL EXAMINATION AND ALL APPROPRIATE DENTAL SERVICES AND TREATMENT WITHIN 90 DAYS PRIOR TO SEPARATION			YES	NO	
18. REMARKS SERVED IN A DESIGNATED IMMINENT DANGER PAY AREA//SERVICE IN AFGHANISTAN 20040215-20040415//MEMBER HAS COMPLETED FIRST FULL TERM OF SERVICE//NOTHING FOLLOWS						
The information contained herein is subject to computer matching within the Department of Defense or with any other affected Federal or non-Federal agency for verification purposes and to determine eligibility for, and/or continued compliance with, the requirements of a Federal benefit program.						
19a. MAILING ADDRESS AFTER SEPARATION (Include ZIP Code) 1 LINDHURST DR LOCKPORT NEW YORK 14094			b. NEAREST RELATIVE (Name and address - Include ZIP Code) WAYNE DENT 1 LINDHURST DR LOCKPORT NEW YORK 14094			
20. MEMBER REQUESTS COPY 6 BE SENT TO		NY	DIRECTOR OF VETERANS AFFAIRS	X	YES	NO
21. SIGNATURE OF MEMBER BEING SEPARATED 		22. OFFICIAL AUTHORIZED TO SIGN (Typed name, grade, title and signature) RUTH ARMWOOD, GS07, CHIEF OF TRANSITION				

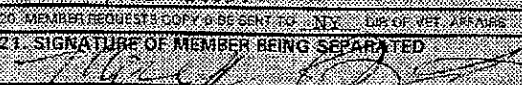
23. TYPE OF SEPARATION DISCHARGE			24. CHARACTER OF SERVICE (Includes upgrades) HONORABLE		
25. SEPARATION AUTHORITY AR 600-8-24, PARA 3-5		26. SEPARATION CODE FND		27. REENTRY CODE NA	
28. NARRATIVE REASON FOR SEPARATION MISCELLANEOUS/GENERAL REASONS					
29. DATES OF TIME LOST DURING THIS PERIOD (YYYYMMDD) NONE				30. MEMBER REQUESTS COPY 4 (Initials) 	


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ANY ALTERATIONS IN SHADED AREAS RENDER FORM VOID

CERTIFICATE OF RELEASE OR DISCHARGE FROM ACTIVE DUTY

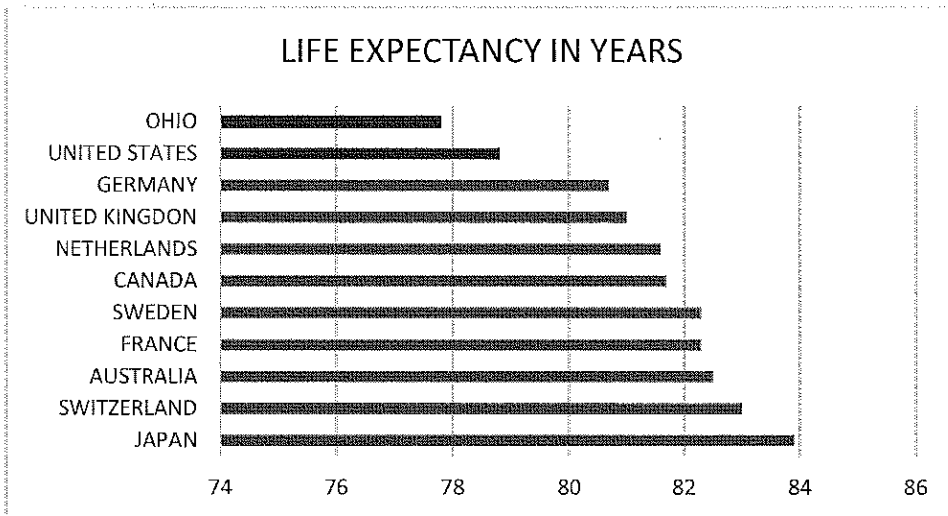
1. NAME (Last, First, Middle) DENT, W MARK		2. DEPARTMENT, COMPONENT AND BRANCH ARMY/RA		3. SOCIAL SECURITY NO	
4.a GRADE, RATE OR RANK SEC	4.b PAY GRADE E4	5. DATE OF BIRTH (YYYYMMDD)		6. RESERVE OBLIG. TERM. DATE Year 0000 Month 00 Day 00	
7.a PLACE OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE DUTY GAHANNA, OH		7.b HOME OF RECORD AT TIME OF ENTRY (City and state, or complete address if known) 20 FREDRICK STREET COUMBUS, OH 43206			
8.a LAST DUTY ASSIGNMENT AND MAJOR COMMAND 0002ARHOME DET HHT FC		8.b STATION WHERE SEPARATED FORT POLK, LA 71459-5000			
9. COMMAND TO WHICH TRANSFERRED NA		10. SGLI COVERAGE		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None	
11. PRIMARY SPECIALTY (List number, title and years and months in specialty. List additional specialty numbers and titles involving periods of one or more years.) 27D10 00 PARALEGAL NCO--1 YRS-3 MOS//NOTHING FOLLOWS		12. RECORD OF SERVICE			
		a. Date entered AD This Period	2002	01	17
		b. Separation Date This Period	2002	09	14
		c. Net Active Service This Period	0001	07	28
		d. Total Prior Active Service	0000	00	00
		e. Total Prior Inactive Service	0000	00	00
		f. Foreign Service	0000	00	00
		g. Sea Service	0000	00	00
13. DECORATIONS, MEDALS, BADGES, CITATIONS AND CAMPAIGN RIBBONS AWARDED OR AUTHORIZED (All periods of service) NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL//ARMY SERVICE RIBBON//NOTHING FOLLOWS		10. SGLI COVERAGE Amount: \$			
14. MILITARY EDUCATION (Course title, number of weeks and month and year completed) PARALEGAL SPECIALIST, 10 WEEKS, JUN 2002//NOTHING FOLLOWS					
15.a MEMBER CONTRIBUTED TO POST-VIETNAM ERA VETERAN'S EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM		Yes	No	15.b HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE OR EQUIVALENT	
			X	Yes	
				No	
				X	
16. DAYS ACCRUED LEAVE PAID NONE					
17. MEMBER WAS PROVIDED A COMPLETE DENTAL EXAM AND ALL APPROPRIATE DENTAL SERVICES AND TREATMENT WITHIN 90 DAYS PRIOR TO SEPARATION					
Yes					
X No					
18. REMARKS DATA HEREIN SUBJECT TO COMPUTER MATCHING WITHIN DOD OR WITH OTHER AGENCIES FOR VERIFICATION PURPOSES AND DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY OR COMPLIANCE FOR FEDERAL BENEFITS//BLOCK 6. PERIOD OF DELAYED ENTRY PROGRAM: 20010910-20020116//MEMBER HAS COMPLETED FIRST FULL TERM OF SERVICE//AR 601-280 PARAGRAPH 3-9 APPLIES AND AR 600-37 COMPLIED WITH//US ARMY LRP AND CASH BONUS OF \$8,999 AUTHORIZED BY HODA DAPE-MPA-RE 09017602 DATED 10 AUGUST 2001//NOTHING FOLLOWS					
19.a MAILING ADDRESS AFTER SEPARATION (include Zip Code) 1 LINDHURST DR LOCKPORT, NY 14094			19.b NEAREST RELATIVE (Name and address - include Zip Code) SHARON DENT 1 LINDHURST DR LOCKPORT, NY 14094		
20. MEMBER REQUESTS COPY 4 BE SENT TO: NY, DIR OF VET AFFAIRS			22. OFFICIAL AUTHORIZED TO SIGN (Typed name, grade, title and signature) ROBERT STARK, GS11, IN, CENTRAL PROCESSING CTR		
X Yes			No		
21. SIGNATURE OF MEMBER BEING SEPARATED 					

SPECIAL ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (For use by authorized agencies only)		
23. TYPE OF SEPARATION DISCHARGE		24. CHARACTER OF SERVICE (include upgrades) HONORABLE
25. SEPARATION AUTHORITY AR 635-200 PARA 15-12 (1)		26. SEPARATION CODE KGM
27. REENTRY CODE 1		28. NARRATIVE REASON FOR SEPARATION ACCEPT COMMISSION OR WARRANT IN THE ARMY
29. DATES OF TIME LOST DURING THIS PERIOD NONE		30. MEMBER REQUESTS COPY 4  Initials

Healthcare Results- We need to fix this-*

*Data from <https://www.healthsystemtracker.org> 2017 data or most recent year available. Data is also available at <http://www.oecd.org>.

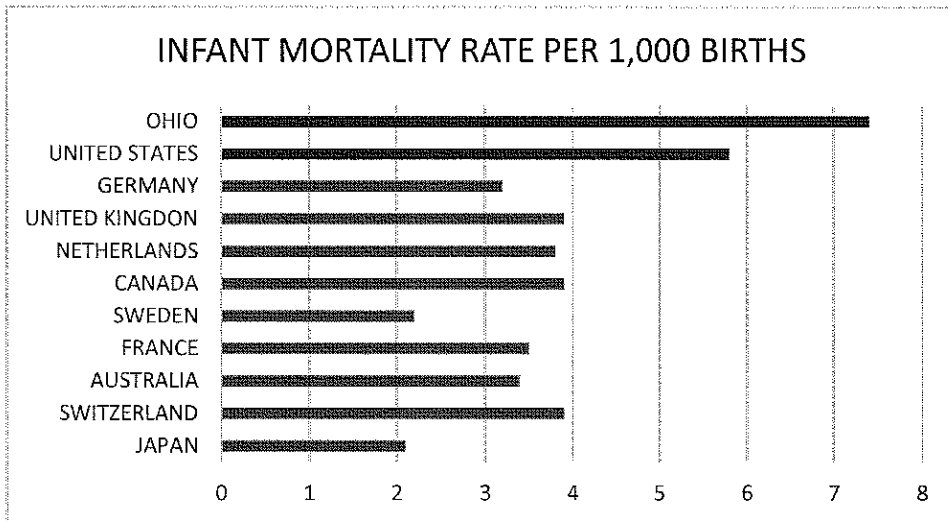
The United States has the lowest life expectancy of any rich industrialized nation, Ohio is even lower than the U.S. average



LIFE EXPECTANCY	
COUNTRIES	YEARS
JAPAN	83.9
SWITZERLAND	83
AUSTRALIA	82.5
FRANCE	82.3
SWEDEN	82.3
CANADA	81.7
NETHERLANDS	81.6
UNITED KINGDOM	81
GERMANY	80.7
UNITED STATES	78.8
OHIO	77.8

Infant Mortality:

United States has by far, the highest infant mortality rates of any other rich industrialized nation. Ohio has rate is even worse. Side note: Communist Cuba has an infant mortality rate of 4.1.

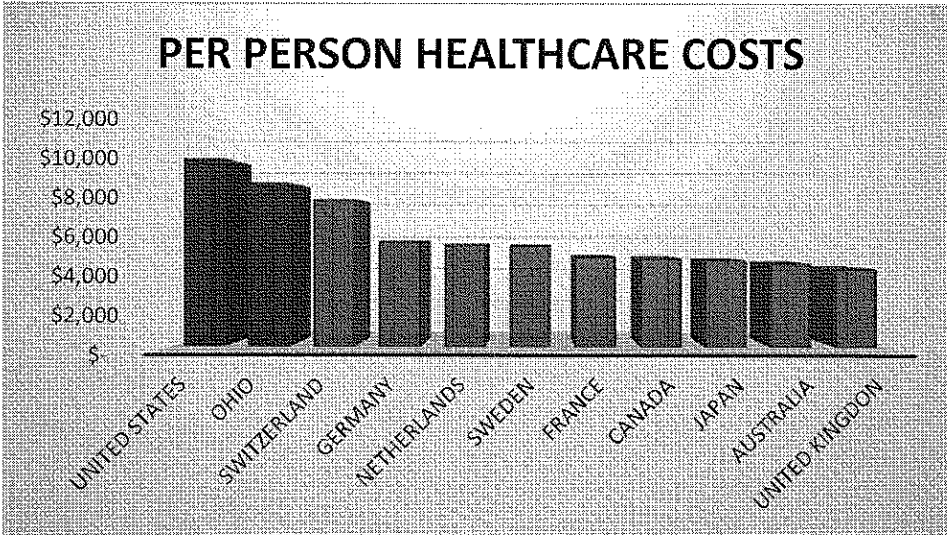


INFANT MORTALITY	
COUNTRIES	RATE PER 1,000 BIRTHS
JAPAN	2.1
SWITZERLAND	3.9
AUSTRALIA	3.4
FRANCE	3.5
SWEDEN	2.2
CANADA	3.9
NETHERLANDS	3.8
UNITED KINGDOM	3.9
GERMANY	3.2
UNITED STATES	5.8
OHIO	7.4

Healthcare Costs-

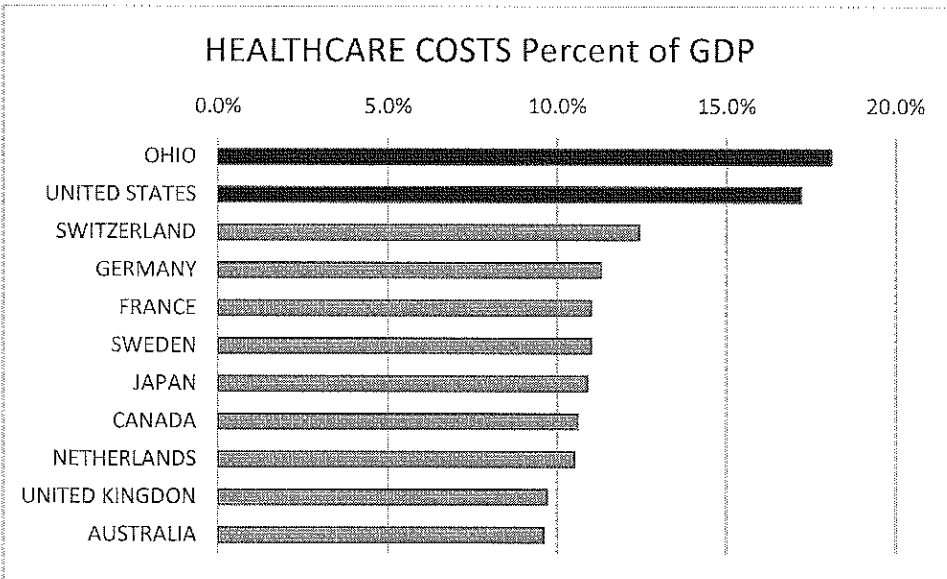
How much are we paying for substandard care?

Cost per person: except for Switzerland, we pay almost double of any other rich industrialized nation.



PER PERSON COSTS	
COUNTRIES	COST
UNITED STATES	\$ 10,209
OHIO	\$ 8,882
SWITZERLAND	\$ 8,009
GERMANY	\$ 5,729
NETHERLANDS	\$ 5,560
SWEDEN	\$ 5,511
FRANCE	\$ 4,902
CANADA	\$ 4,826
JAPAN	\$ 4,717
AUSTRALIA	\$ 4,543
UNITED KINGDOM	\$ 4,245

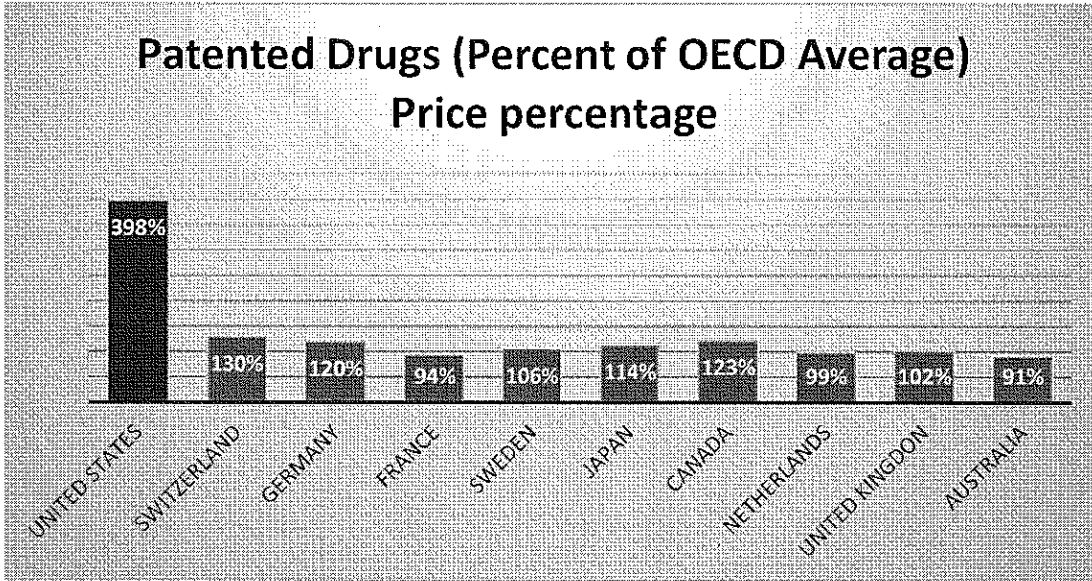
Healthcare costs are taking up a larger and larger portion of our economy.



HEALTHCARE COSTS	
COUNTRIES	Percent of GDP
OHIO	18.1%
UNITED STATES	17.2%
SWITZERLAND	12.4%
GERMANY	11.3%
FRANCE	11.0%
SWEDEN	11.0%
JAPAN	10.9%
CANADA	10.6%
NETHERLANDS	10.5%
UNITED KINGDOM	9.7%
AUSTRALIA	9.6%

Other items to consider:

Cost for Prescription drugs:



Despite the amount we pay for medical care, we see the doctor less often than most other countries:

