

My health care story:

I had a full-time job with medical insurance coverage, but after two surgeries in two years, and with my health continuing to worsen, I became unable to keep my job. The financial stress of non-covered medical bills from the surgeries, and being unemployed, led to my filing for bankruptcy.

It was terribly embarrassing to go through bankruptcy; it was humiliating to need medical care but be unable to pay for it.

In my opinion, our medical system is unjust and inhumane. Instead of ameliorating sickness, it compounds it for people without insurance. It contributes to stress-related diseases, which require more medical care, in a positively sickening positive feedback loop.

I have wondered how different my life would've been had I had medical coverage the whole time. I know I would have kept seeking answers for the cause of my symptoms. The autoimmune disease that was eventually diagnosed would have been treated much sooner, and this would have allowed me to realistically plan for my future. Instead, I worried that the next surgery would be the one where they find what they suspected all along, and that was cancer.

Sincerely,
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