



The Spirituality and Ethics Underlying the Affordable Care Act

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The Spirituality and Ethics Underlying the Affordable Care Act

- A. The Spirituality of Interrelatedness
- B. The Ethical and Political Theory of John Rawls
- C. The Affordable Care Act

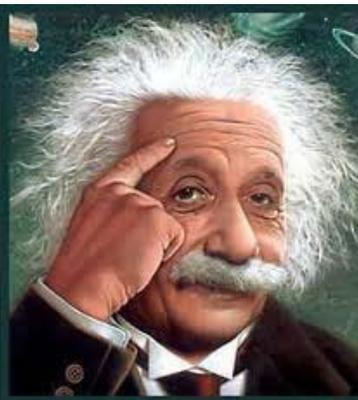
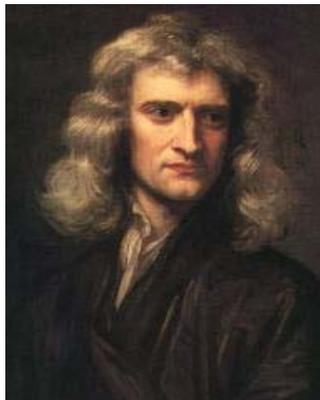


A. The Spirituality Of Interrelatedness

THE SHIFT IN CONSCIOUSNESS

From: 17th-18th century Cartesian-Newtonian *Dualism*

To: 20th-21st century *Interrelatedness* of Einstein and colleagues



The Shift In Consciousness

- ◆ **Solidarity** vs **Alienation**
- ◆ **Oneness** vs **Isolation**
- ◆ **Systems** vs **Fragmentation**
- ◆ **Holism** vs **Parts**
- ◆ **Interrelatedness** vs **Separated**
- ◆ **Interconnectedness** vs **Not-Connected**
- ◆ **Organic** vs **Inorganic**
- ◆ **Evolutionary** vs **Static**
- ◆ **Process** vs **Fixed**
- ◆ **Wholeness** vs **Fractured**
- ◆ **Interdependence** vs **Independence**

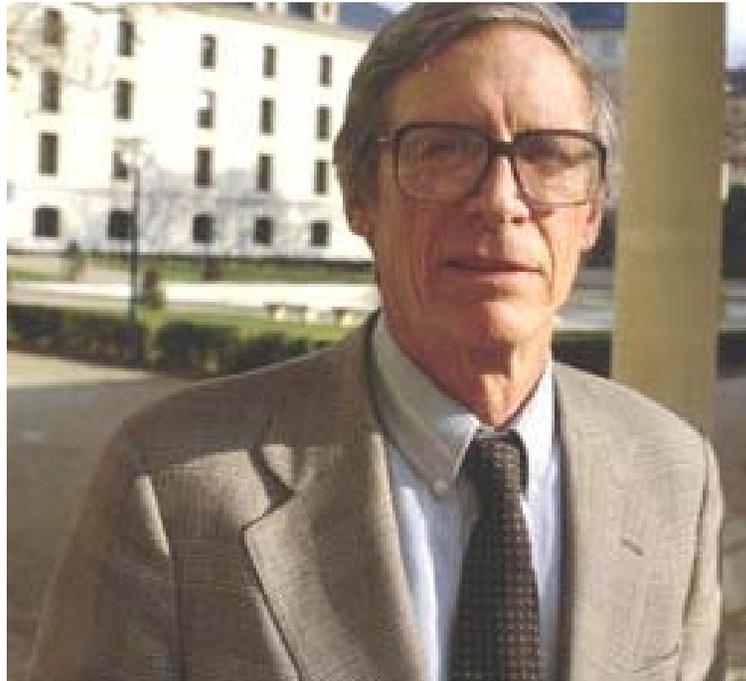


Spirituality

- ◆ **Spirituality is always about what is real.**
- ◆ **Spirituality is always about our life**
our culture
our world
our awareness.
- ◆ **Spirituality today is about the 21st century consciousness of interrelatedness.**
- ◆ **Here all the Gods live and move and have their Being.**



B. The Ethical and Political Theory of *John Rawls*



(1921-2002)

National Humanities Medal to John Rawls

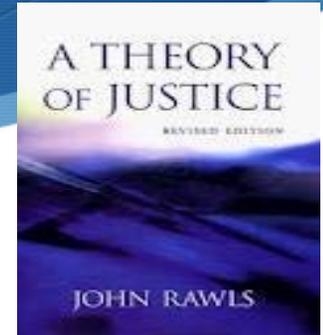
“ John Rawls is perhaps the greatest political philosopher of the 20th century... he wrote, A Theory of Justice, that placed our rights to liberty and justice upon a strong and brilliant new foundation of reason. Almost singlehandedly, John Rawls revived the disciplines of political and ethical philosophy with his argument that a society in which the most fortunate helped the least fortunate is not only a moral society, but a logical one. Just as impressively, he has helped a whole generation of learned Americans revive their faith in democracy itself. ”



— Clinton, W. J. (1999, September 29).

Remarks by President William J. Clinton at presentation of the National Humanities Medal to John Rawls. Washington, DC: White House Office of the Press Secretary.

A Theory of Justice



- ◆ 1971, 1975, 1999, 2005: a milestone book
- ◆ A principled reconciliation of liberty and equality
- ◆ An attempt to solve the problem of distributive justice
- ◆ Belongs to the “social contract” tradition of Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, and Immanuel Kant, who contributed to the following:

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.”

— The Declaration of Independence, §2 (July 4, 1776).

John Rawls' Principles of Ethics

- 1.) The Theory of Distributive Justice
- 2.) Fairness to the Least Advantaged
- 3.) Social Contract
- 4.) Economic Fairness
- 5.) Equality of Opportunity



C. The Affordable Care Act

- ◆ The climax of an 66-year effort from President Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1944, to President Richard Nixon in the 1960's, to President John F. Kennedy, to President Lyndon Johnson, to President Bill Clinton, and finally President Obama in the 21st century.



Context for the Affordable Care Act

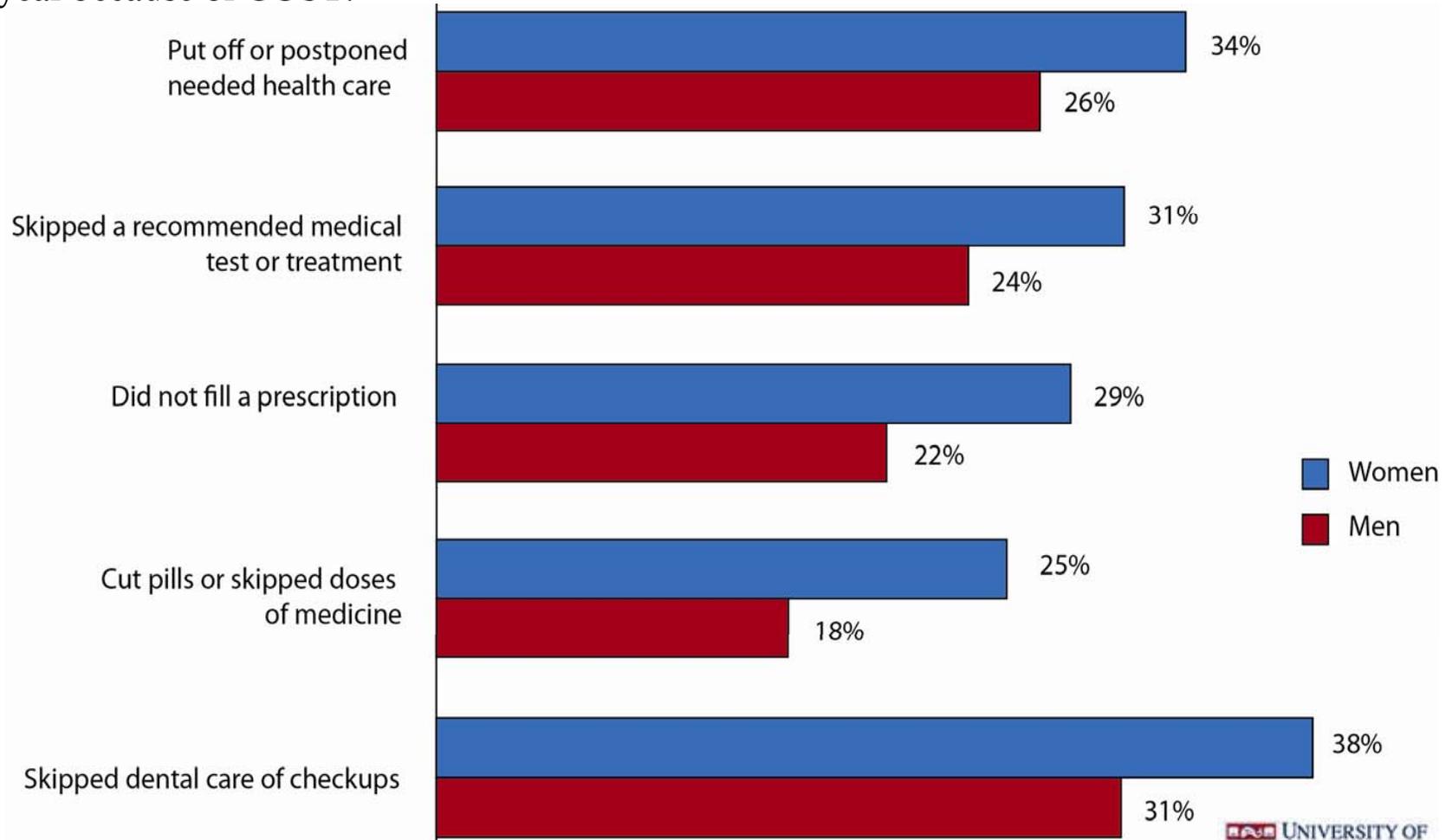
“While the explicit ethical justification is that health reform is decisive for the nation’s future prosperity, health coverage is above all an ethical issue; at stake are not just the details of policy, but fundamental principles of social justice and the nation’s character... What we face is above all a moral issue; at stake are not just the details of policy, but fundamental principles of social justice and the character of our country.”



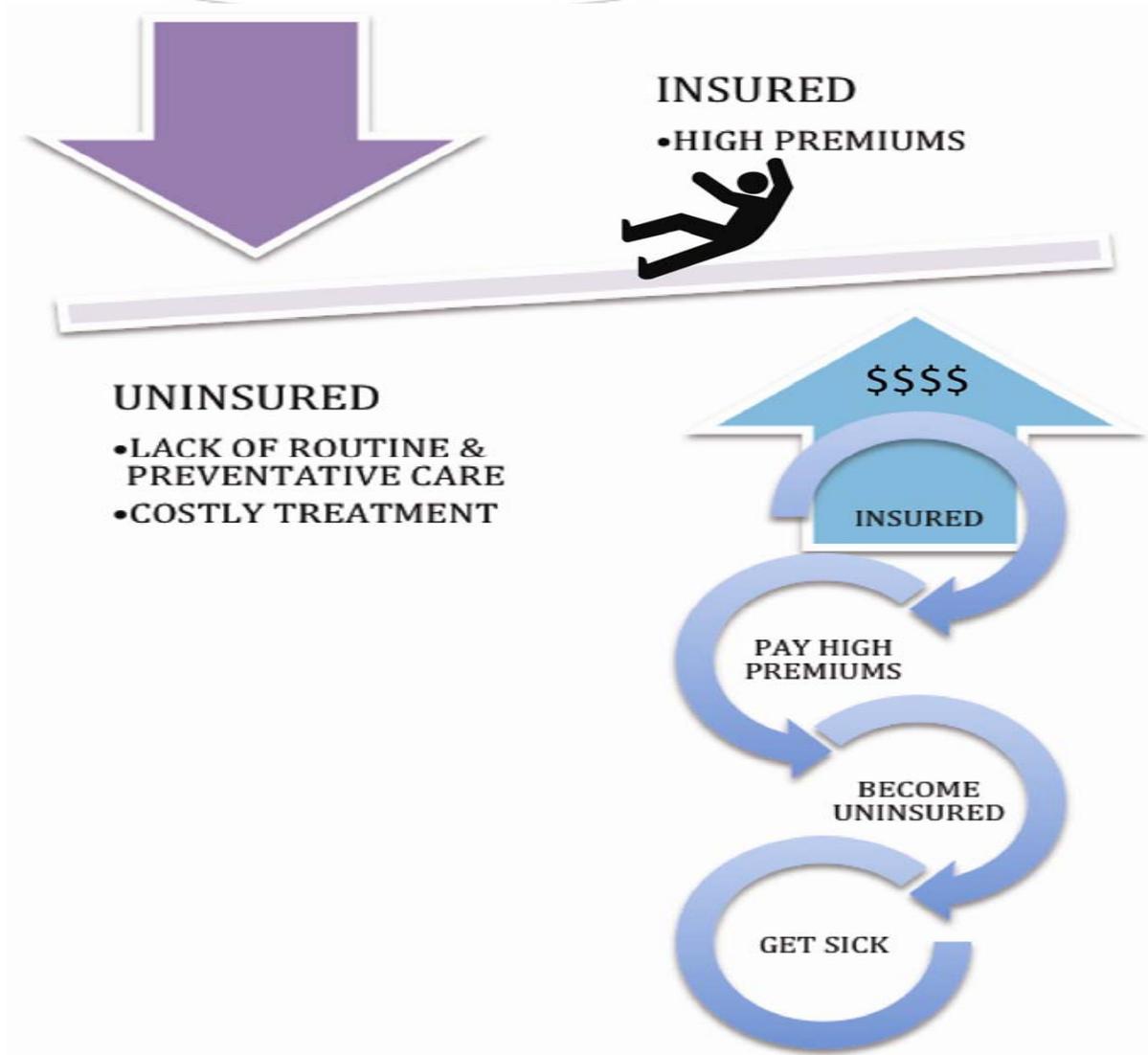
— Edward Kennedy (1932-2009), U.S. Senator from Massachusetts

Lack of Access to Essential Health-Care

Percent of Americans who say they or a family member have done each of the following in the past year because of COST:

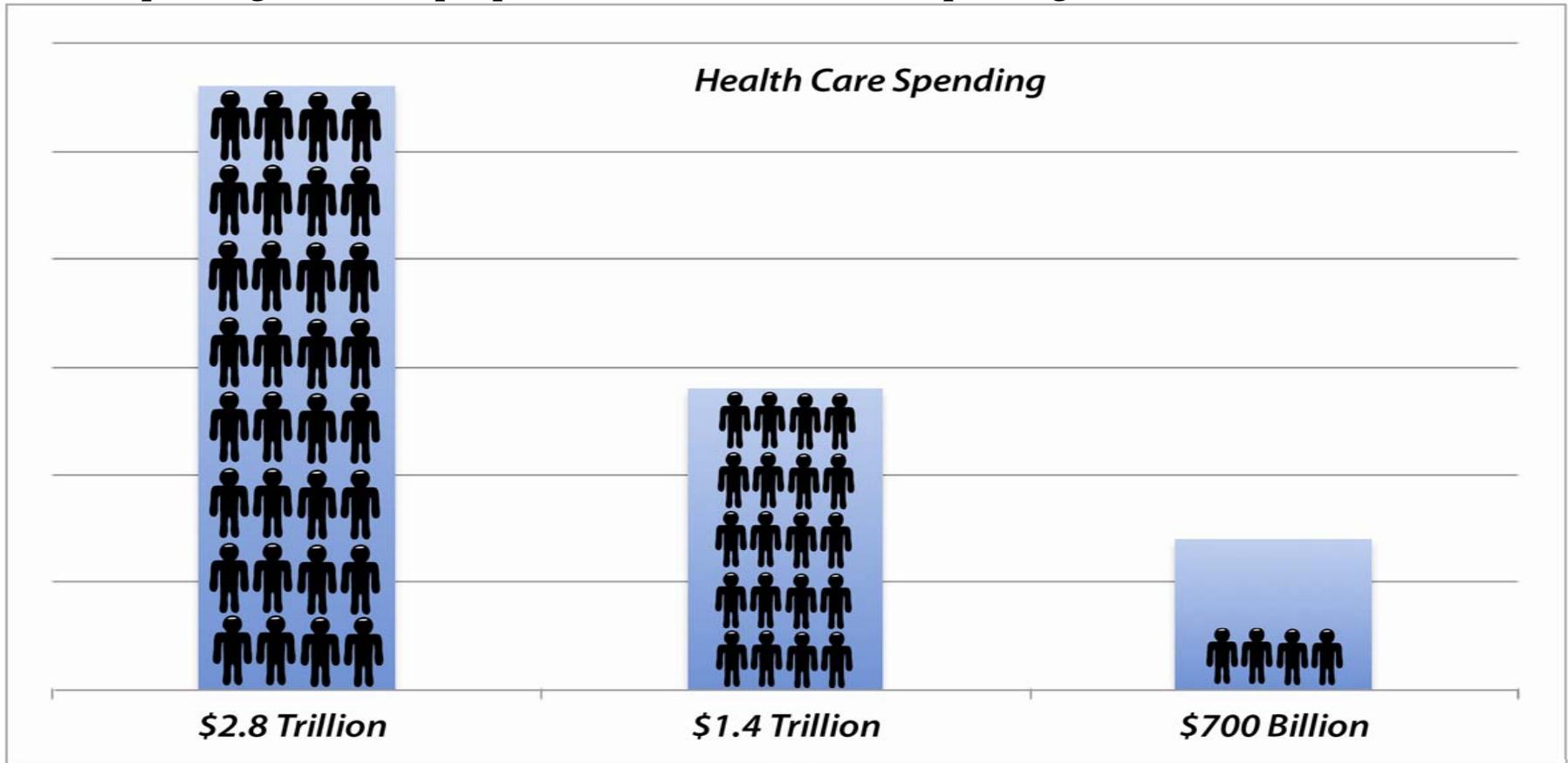


Insured Pay Higher Health Insurance Premiums



Disproportionality

One percent of the U.S. population is responsible for about one-fourth of the nation's health-care spending and the top 5 percent accounts for half of spending.

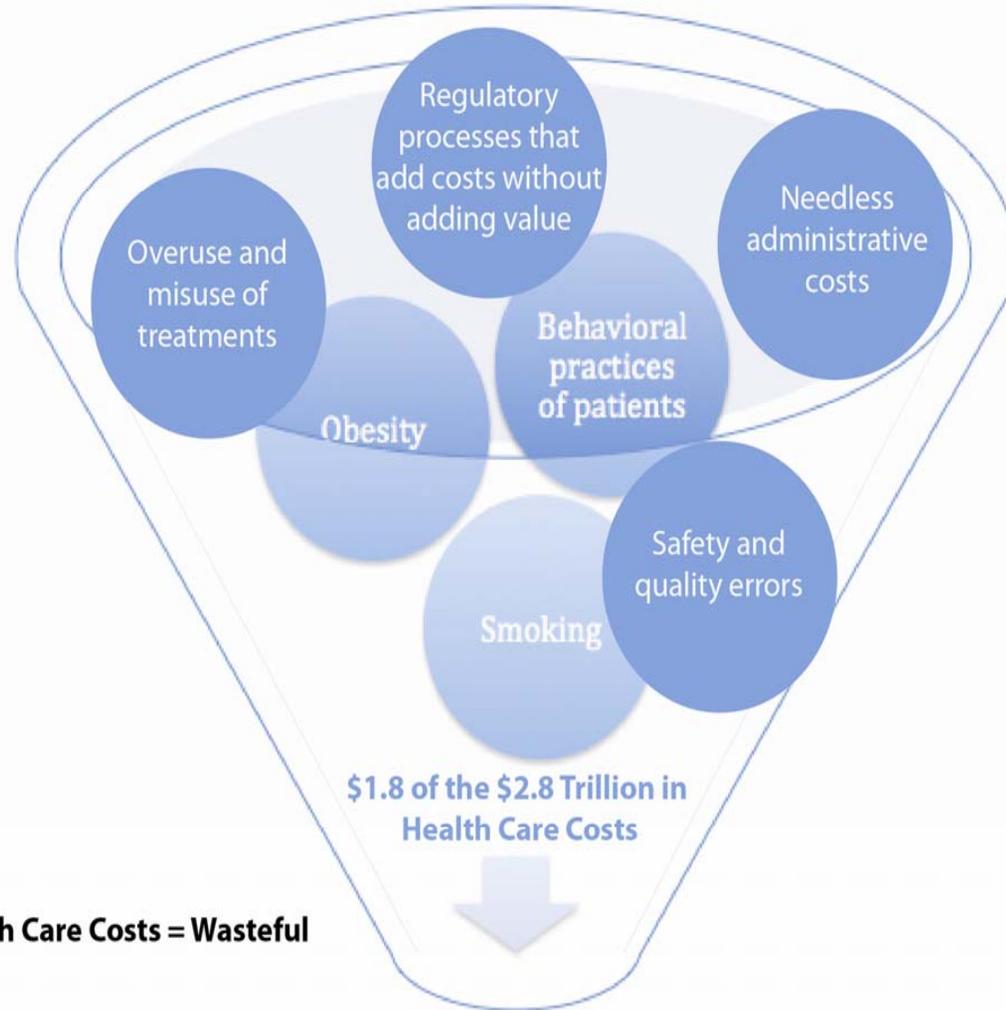


Total Population
\$9000/Person

5% Population
\$90,300/Person

1% Population
\$2.2 Million/Person

Wasteful Spending



64% Health Care Costs = Wasteful

Theoretical Framework for Health-Care Reform

Based on John Rawl's Political Philosophy

First Principle: Universal Health Coverage

- ❑ All U.S. residents have an equal claim to access health coverage
- ❑ The means to access this health-care claim must be the same for everyone
- ❑ Each person is free to select the health-care system and providers for their health-care
- ❑ Health-care-providers are guaranteed to receive fair value for services provided



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Second Principle: Pooled Health Risks

- Inequalities brought about by the inability to pay fair value for health-care are permissible if the following two conditions are met:
- Health-care must be accessible to all U.S. residents based on fairness; in other words, access to essential health-care must be based on medical need and equality of opportunity (by which the health-care provided must be of a minimum quality)
 - The greatest assistance to access health-care must be given to those at the bottom of the economic pyramid, or the least advantage



Timeline for Implementation of the Affordable Care Act



- ◆ New Consumer Protections
- ◆ Improving Quality And Patient Safety
- ◆ Decreasing Wasteful Spending
- ◆ Increasing Access To Affordable Care
- ◆ Holding Health Insurers Accountable
- ◆ New Health-Care Taxes



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