

# Delve Deeper into "Critical Condition"

A film by Roger Weisberg

This multi-media resource list, compiled by Paul A. Bareño of the San Diego Public Library, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the upcoming P.O.V. documentary "Critical Condition," that premieres on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at 9 PM (check local listings at [www.pbs.org/pov/](http://www.pbs.org/pov/)).

What happens if you fall sick and are one of 47 million people in America without health insurance? "Critical Condition" by Roger Weisberg ("Waging a Living," P.O.V. 2006) puts a human face on the nation's growing health care crisis by capturing the harrowing struggles of four critically ill Americans who discover that being uninsured can cost them their jobs, health, home, savings, and even their lives. Filmed in verité style, "Critical Condition" offers a moving and invaluable exposé at a time when the nation is debating how to extend health insurance to all Americans. A production of Public Policy Productions in association with Thirteen/WNET New York and American Documentary | P.O.V.

## ADULT NONFICTION

**Angel, Ronald, Laura Lein, and Jane Henrici.** *Poor Families in America's Health Care Crisis.* Cambridge: University Press, 2006. Examines the implications of the United States' fragmented and two-tiered health insurance system on low-income families' access to health care.

**Braverman, Jordan.** *Your Money And Your Health: How to Find Affordable, High Quality Healthcare.* Amherst, NY: Prometheus Books, 2006. A guide to finding affordable health care. Includes lists of health-related resources, organizations and websites.

**Cohn, Jonathan.** *Sick: The Untold Story of America's Health Care Crisis --- and the People Who Pay the Price.* New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 2007. Drawing on his travels through major cities and small towns across the U.S., Cohn presents examples of how the state of the country's health care system affects real people, from a historical context.

**Daschle, Thomas.** *Critical: What We Can Do About the Health-Care Crisis.* New York: Thomas Dunne Books, 2008. Senator Daschle examines the weaknesses of the health care system in the U.S., and proposes that an independent Federal Health Board be created and that employers' plans, Medicaid and Medicare be merged with an expanded FEHBP (Federal Employee Health Benefits Program) so that everyone is covered.

**Derickson, Alan.** *Health Security for All: Dreams of Universal Health Care in America.* Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2005. Explores the origins and development of the idea of universal health care in America since the late 19th century.

**Dranove, David.** *What's Your Life Worth?: Health Care Rationing -- Who Lives? Who Dies? And Who Decides?* Upper Saddle River, NJ: FT Prentice Hall, 2003. Dranove, one of the world's leading health care economists, offers an analysis of today's soaring health care costs and shows how it would feel to be at the mercy of a system that might choose not to give you care.

**Grover, Jan.** *Healthcare.* Detroit: Greenhaven Press, 2007. Articles, book excerpts, historical documents and other material present opposing arguments about health care in the United States. Sections look at whether healthcare should be considered a basic right, whether the existing system can be saved, how healthcare should be reformed and how it should be transformed.

**Halvorson, George C.** *Health Care Reform Now!: A Prescription for Change.* San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass, 2007. Written by one of the leading figures in health care today, this book offers a passionate and rational way to solve the health care crisis in the U.S.

**Kotlikoff, Laurence J.** *The Healthcare Fix: Universal Insurance for All Americans.* Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 2007. A brief, straightforward proposal for universal health insurance, from a noted economist.

**Lynn, Joanne.** *Sick To Death and Not Going to Take It Anymore!: Reforming Health Care for the Last Years of Life.* Berkeley, Calif.: University of California Press, 2004. Lynn argues for changing the U.S. health care system to provide better care for serious chronic illness and disability. She maintains that health care and community services are not set up to meet the needs of the large number of people who face a prolonged period of progressive illness and disability before death.

**Mackell, Thomas J.** *When the Good Pensions Go Away: Why America Needs a New Deal for Pension and Healthcare Reform.* Hoboken, N.J.: Wiley, 2008. This book suggests remedies to the quagmire that has been created by the conflicting interests of the health care and pension service providers, the aging population and the inertia that has permeated our policymakers.

**Pilzer, Paul Zane.** *The New Health Insurance Solution: How to Get Cheaper, Better Coverage Without a Traditional Employer Plan.* Hoboken, N.J.: John Wiley, 2005. Offers ways to cut your health insurance costs in half if: you're self-employed, an independent contractor or your employer doesn't provide health insurance.

**Quadagno, Jill S.** *One Nation, Uninsured: Why the U.S. Has No National Health Insurance.* New York: Oxford University Press, 2005. Offers a vividly written history of America's failed efforts to address the health care needs of its citizens. Shows how each attempt to enact national health insurance has been met with fierce attacks by powerful stakeholders.



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**Relman, Arnold S. *A Second Opinion: Rescuing America's Healthcare: A Plan for Universal Coverage Serving Patients Over Profit*. New York: PublicAffairs, 2007.** A call to politicians and medical professionals to form a new structure for healthcare given that the U.S. healthcare system is failing and increasingly focuses on generating income for insurers and providers rather than providing care for patients.

**Richmond, Julius B. *The Health Care Mess: How We Got Into It and What It Will Take To Get Out*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2005.** An authoritative account of the circumstances that created our present health care crisis and a thoughtful roadmap for how we can extricate ourselves from it.

**Rooney; J Patrick and Dan Perrin. *America's Health Care Crisis Solved: Money-Saving Solutions, Coverage for Everyone*. Hoboken: Wiley, 2008.** The authors hypothesize that the only sensible alternative to a national health plan is to bring the self-interest of the American consumers into the purchase of healthcare - with Health Savings Accounts and family deductibles.

**Shultz, George Pratt and John B Shoven. *Putting Our House in Order: A Guide to Social Security and Health Care Reform*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2008.** Former U.S. Secretary of the Treasury George Shultz and an eminent economist take on health care reform, considering different plans from major thinkers in the field and charting a course towards a system that provides income for the elderly and universal access to health care in ways that are fiscally sound.

**Sered, Susan Starr. *Uninsured in America: Life and Death in the Land of Opportunity*. Berkeley, Calif.: University of California Press, 2005.** Sered goes to the heart of why more than 47 million Americans don't have health insurance and what it means for society as a whole when so many suffer the consequences of inadequate medical care. Based on interviews with 120 uninsured men and women and dozens of medical providers, policymakers and advocates from around the nation.

**Terry, Ken. *Rx for Health Care Reform*. Nashville: Vanderbilt University Press, 2007.** Terry analyzes U.S. health care policy and puts forth a reform proposal that would involve regional government-regulated insurers with no role in managing care, competing for-profit primary-care physician groups, and the rationing of specialty care.

**Cutler, David M. *Your Money or Your Life: Strong Medicine for America's Health Care System*. Oxford University Press USA. (2005).** Examines America's health care crisis while answering the question of whether or not health care is worth the amount of money we put into it.

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## MAGAZINE/JOURNAL ARTICLES

**Andrews, Michelle. "Covered but Far From Safe; Individual health plans often fall short when needed most." *U.S. News & World Report*, 11 February 2008, pp. 57-59.** This article looks at individual health insurance plans in the U.S. that involve less benefits and higher costs.

**Begley, Sharon. "The Myth of 'Best in the World'." *Newsweek*, 31 March 2008, p. 47.** This article dismantles the idea that the U.S. health care system is the world's best, by noting the comparatively high U.S. infant mortality rate and low rate of cancer survival.

**Yardley, William. "Drawing Lots for Health Care." *The New York Times*, 13 March 2008, p. A12.** Ninety-one thousand residents of Oregon have signed up for a lottery that provides health insurance to people who lack it.

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## FILMS/DOCUMENTARIES

**"Sicko" Written, produced and directed by Michael Moore. Weinstein Co., 2007. (123 min.)** Filmmaker Michael Moore critiques the American health care system, focusing especially on the HMOs, drug companies and congressmen who profit from the status quo. Also includes an analysis of the health care systems in Canada, England, France and Cuba, where universal health care is the norm.  
[www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

**"Remaking American Medicine Health Care for the 21st Century" Produced by Crosskeys Media, Distributed by PBS Home Video, 2006 (240 min.)** Examines critical health care issues facing the U.S., including patient safety, medical and medication errors, hospital-acquired infections, family-centered care and the effective management of chronic disease. The program focuses on the advances being made in improving the quality of patient care and features profiles of providers and patients who are working together to change the way health care is provided in the United States.  
[www.shoppbs.org](http://www.shoppbs.org)

**"Sick Around the World" Frontline/WGBH, Distributed by PBS Home Video, 2008 (60 min.)** This *Frontline* program looks at how five other capitalist democracies -- the United Kingdom, Japan, Germany, Taiwan and Switzerland - deliver health care, and what the United States might learn from their successes and their failures.  
[www.shoppbs.org](http://www.shoppbs.org)

**"Unnatural Causes" Produced by California Newsreel and Vital Pictures, Inc. Distributed by California Newsreel, 2008 (7 segments; 1x56 min, 6x30 min)** A seven part series on the root causes of health and illness and how that information can reframe the debate about health in America.

