

Public health care is vital for both the health of the people and the economy. When people cannot afford basic health care, not only do they suffer from easily treatable conditions, but this infirmity prevents them from engaging with the rest of the economy at their fullest level; when someone is stuck home sick or injured, they cannot make casual shopping trips, go to the movies, dine at restaurants, etc. Most adults have some kind of chronic health condition that requires treatment in order to be at their best. The need to manage these conditions leads to people being dependent on their health insurance provider, and in turn leads to a fear of leaving or losing a job, regardless of the job's other merits or demerits. An employee who fears getting fired will not challenge a company to perform better. An employee who fears a gap of waiting for health benefits at a new job will not seek out that new job. A would-be entrepreneur who cannot afford to lose their company health care will not start their own business, nor will a would-be small business owner who cannot afford to provide their employees with health insurance. In all these ways the absence of public health care thus stifles economic innovation. Public health care is both the humane thing to do and the economically sound thing to do.