Health care spending in America is 18% of our total Gross Domestic Product and is expected to reach $4.3 trillion by 2017. Other than national defense, health care expenditures eclipse every other area of national spending. And, notwithstanding government spending, every American citizen bears the burden of escalating costs, expenses and insurance premiums.

## How Does Health Care Impact Families?

### Facts About Insurance:
- Nearly three out of four middle-income families are insured through their employers.
- Between 1999 and 2008, health insurance premiums increased 119%.
- The recession will cause an estimated 7 million Americans to lose their health insurance.
- Among personal bankruptcies, the average medical debt was $12,000 - 68% had coverage.

### Facts About the Uninsured:
- More than 8 of 10 uninsured people come from working families.
- Uninsured people are more than 9 times more likely to forgo medical care because of cost.
- As of March, 2009, 44.9 million people were uninsured - 11 million from the middle class.
- 36% of families living below the poverty line are uninsured.

## How Does Health Care Impact Businesses?

- Health insurance expenses are the fastest growing cost component for employers.
- In 2008, employer health insurance premiums increased at double the rate of inflation.
- Since 1999, employer health premiums have risen four times faster than worker salaries.
- Increasing health insurance costs places downward pressure on salaries and new hires.
- Increasing health care costs reduce profit margins which limits companies’ growth.
- Between 1999 and 2007, health insurance premiums have increased by 12% annually for small businesses.

### Did You Know?

Although nearly $2.4 trillion per year is spent on medical care, many people receive less care than they need, more care than they need, or the wrong kind of care.

- Patients fail to receive needed services 46% of the time.
- Patients received services they did not need 11% of the time.
- Patients received recommended preventative care and screenings 49% of the time.
- Total national costs of preventable medical errors are estimated at $35 billion per year.
- Each year there are over 250,000 hospital-acquired pneumonia cases and 23,000 related deaths.
- One third of US patients reported a medical, medication or laboratory error in the past two years.

_Health care is big business – one of the biggest there is. Here are some facts about the dollars involved in running the country's current health care system._

- In 2007, health-related companies in the Fortune 1000 earned nearly $71 billion.
- The medical establishment spends nearly $6 billion a year on advertising.
- Pharmaceuticals and medical equipment ranked 3rd and 4th in profits as a share of revenue on Fortune's list of the top 52 industries.
- From 2000-2007, the annual profits of America’s top 15 health-insurance companies increased from $3.5 billion to $15 billion.
- The 50 largest nonprofit hospitals or hospital systems made a combined net income of $4.27 billion in 2006, nearly eight times more than five years earlier.