

“The enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being.” The right to medical care was established in the Constitution of the World Health Organization in 1946^[1]. Along with this, many other documents, from the United Nations^[2] Foundational Document’s explicit outlining of a right to healthcare for all participating countries, with 74% complying- including Brazil, Finland, Peru, Saudi Arabia, Poland, Russia, and France^[3]- to even the United States own Declaration of Independence^[4], seem to agree that health is a entitlement that cannot be impeded upon. Despite this, there is yet to be any mention of protecting it anywhere in the US Constitution. “Life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness” are a persons “inalienable rights”^[4] however, two of these entitlements are infringed on by the absence of a right protecting medical care- namely life and pursuit of happiness. US healthcare is by far the costliest in the world^[5], and many lower class families are met with huge struggle when unexpected medical situations hit. As a prominent member of the UN, by incorporating entitlement of medical care to our constitution, the US will be ensuring equality and a fair chance for citizens to not be weighed down by the financial consequences of complications out of their control.^[6]

Sources:

- [1] World Health Organization. (n.d.). *Constitution of the World Health Organization*. World Health Organization. <https://www.who.int/about/governance/constitution>
- [2] United Nations. (n.d.). *Universal declaration of human rights*. United Nations. <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>
<https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WP/Issues/2021/07/06/U-S-461355>
- [3] *Constitutional approaches to the right to health*. UCLA World. (2020, January). <https://www.worldpolicycenter.org/constitutional-approaches-to-the-right-to-health>
- [4] National Archives and Records Administration. (n.d.). *The Declaration of Independence*. National Archives and Records Administration. <https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/declaration>
- [5] Lin, L., Mrkaic, M., & Weber, A. (2021, July 6). *U.S. Healthcare: A story of rising market power, barriers to entry, and supply constraints*. IMF. [U.S. Healthcare: A Story of Rising Market Power, Barriers to Entry, and Supply Constraints \(imf.org\)](https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WP/Issues/2021/07/06/U-S-461355)
- [6] Jones, G. H., & Kantarjian, H. (n.d.). *Health Care in the United States—basic human right or entitlement? - annals of oncology*. Annals of Oncology. [https://www.annalsofoncology.org/article/S0923-7534\(19\)35806-5/fulltext](https://www.annalsofoncology.org/article/S0923-7534(19)35806-5/fulltext)