



Nobody Knew Health Care Could be so Complicated

**Northwood Deaconess Health Center
Annual Meeting**

March 30, 2017

**Presented by Brad Gibbens, Deputy Director
and Assistant Professor**

Northwood, ND



Center for
Rural Health

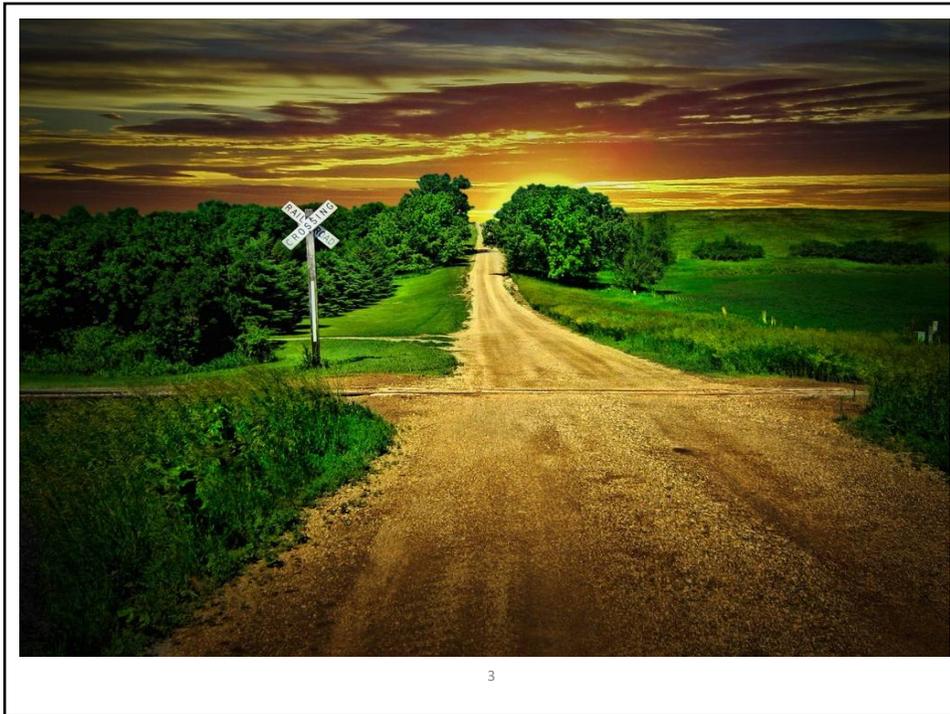
The University of North Dakota
School of Medicine & Health Sciences

- Established in 1980, at The University of North Dakota (UND) School of Medicine and Health Sciences in Grand Forks, ND
- One of the country's most experienced state rural health offices
- UND Center of Excellence in Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity
- Home to seven national programs
- Recipient of the UND Award for Departmental Excellence in Research

Focus on

- Educating and Informing
- Policy
- Research and Evaluation
- Working with Communities
- American Indians
- Health Workforce
- Hospitals and Facilities

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Today's Objectives

Objective 1: To attempt to understand health reform issues – 2017

Objective 2: To understand how philosophy and ideology guide health policy

Objective 3: To understand the idea of framing policy issues

Objective 4: To understand public opinion on health reform

Objective 5: To understand some “fixes” to the ACA

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Ultimately Public Policy is Influenced by Our Values

- **Values guide behavior** – how we see things
- **Behaviors shape values** – what we see -Civil rights protests
- **Ideology** - a system of beliefs and core values
- **“I Centered” or Extrinsic values and “We Centered” or Intrinsic values**
- **Framing** – the images in our head about issues – short cuts we take to interpret messages - metaphors





Some Context

- Health reform has a long history – more discussion than action – politically very hard – ideology – get a consensus
- U.S health care system is a mixed bag of public and private systems and payers
- ACA – 2010 – 13 month process – Not bipartisan
- AHCA – Withdrawn March 2017 but maybe something else 2017 – deal with Democrats?
- US Constitution – House of Representatives and tax matters
- Reconciliation – Filibuster
 - History of rural health legislation and reconciliation
- Important numbers:
 - 216
 - 51
- Freedom Caucus – fragmentation of politics

Framing Health Reform

- Again, images in our heads, metaphors, short cuts in understanding
- Health reform has many frames:
 - A right to health care (equity argument) vs. it is a privilege to have health care – (freedom argument)
 - Opposition to reform concepts for framing:
 - Mandate, loss of freedom, federal control, taxes, responsibility, competition, free enterprise, economics, market, cost
 - Pro reform concepts for framing:
 - Access, fairness/equity, justice, affordability, rights, community, economics, market, cost (especially cost vs. impact/outcome), prevention and population health



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Public Opinion and Attitudes

- **Kaiser Family Foundation, 2017**
- **Top Priority**
 - 67% lower amount individuals pay for health care
 - 61% lower the cost of prescription drugs
 - 45% dealing with the prescription painkiller addiction epidemic
 - 37% repeal the ACA
 - 35% decrease how much federal gov. spends on health care over time
 - 35% decrease the role of the federal government in health care
- 49% of Americans favor the ACA in March 2017
- 44% of Americans do not favor the ACA in March 2017 (6% undecided)
- Lowest point July 2014 with 53% being unfavorable with highest being July 2015 at 50% (election 2016 slightly more were unfavorable)

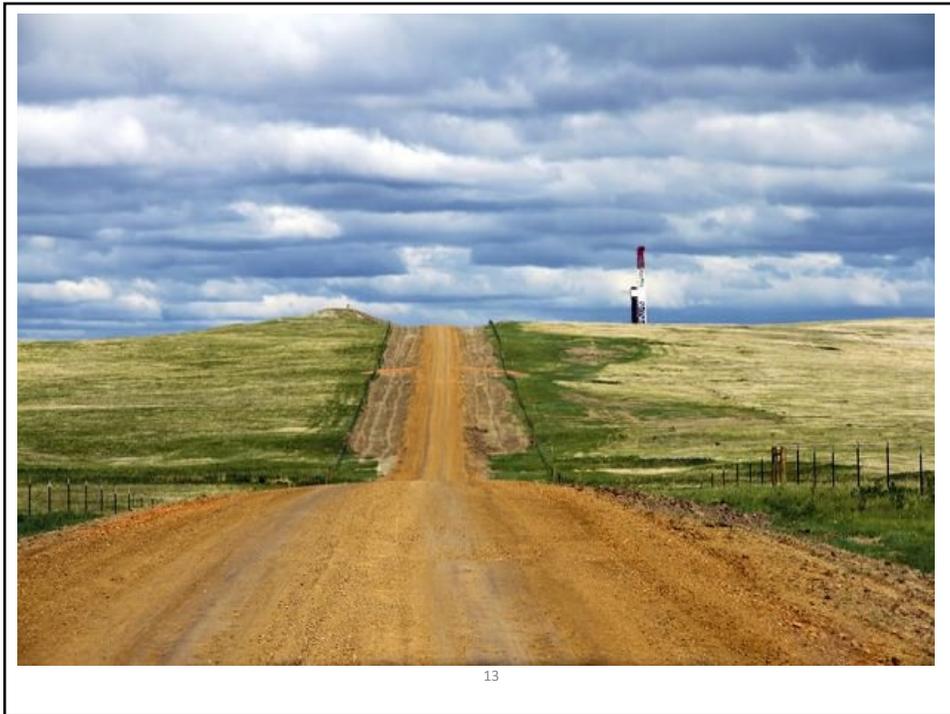
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Public Opinion and Attitudes

- **Public see majority of ACA provisions favorably** (survey Dec. 2016)
 - Allow young adults to stay on parents plan -82% Rep; 85% Ind; and 90% Dems
 - Create health insurance exchanges –Marketplace – 72% Rep; 80% Ind; 90% Dems
 - Provide financial help to low and moderate income Americans to help them purchase coverage – 67% Rep; 81% Ind; 91% Dems
 - Gives states the option of expanding Medicaid – 67% Reps; 79% Ind; 90% Dems
 - Prohibits insurance companies from denying coverage because of a person’s medical history – 63% Reps; 65% Ind; 75% Dems
 - Requires nearly all employers to pay a fine if they don’t offer health insurance – 45% Rep; 60% Ind; 83% Dems
 - Requires nearly all Americans to have health insurance or pay a fine – 21% Reps; 30% Ind; 57% Dems

Public Opinion and Attitudes

- **Public divided on ACA repeal and replace**
 - 51% say do not vote to repeal
 - 24% say wait to vote to repeal until details of replacement have been announced
 - 19% say vote to repeal law immediately and work out the details of a replacement plan later
 - 6% don’t know/refused to answer



Public Opinion and Attitudes

- **Majority supports guaranteeing some coverage for seniors and lower-income individuals**
 - 64% favor guaranteeing a certain level of health coverage and financial help for seniors and lower-income Americans, even if this means more federal health spending and a larger role for the federal government (37% Rep; 64% Ind; 86% Dems)
 - 31% favor limiting federal health spending, decreasing the federal government's role, and giving state governments and individuals more control over health insurance, even if this means some seniors and lower-income Americans would get less financial help than they do today (Rep 55%; 32% Ind, 12% Dems)



Issues to consider to Fix the ACA

- Health care spending is not going up as fast under the ACA (“bend the cost curve”) but it is still going up.
 - Population health and prevention
 - Individual responsibility for health status and link to insurance premiums
- Public Option – alternative to individual mandate
- Reinsurance and Risk Corridors
- Expanded Medicare – people 55-64 or all adults with chronic conditions
- Expanded Medicaid – increase beyond 138% of FPL or all adults without chronic conditions

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Issues to consider to Fix the ACA

- Negotiate pharmaceutical prices
- Selling across state lines – ACA allows but insurers not interested
- Health Savings Accounts
- Tax credits for people in wellness programs, not just through the workplace
- Tort reform – protect consumer and provider
- Serious review of regulations

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Contact us for more information!

1301 North Columbia Road, Stop 9037

Grand Forks, North Dakota 58202-9037

Brad Gibbens (brad.gibbens@med.und.edu)

701.777.2569 (desk)

701.777.3848 (CRH Main #)

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