Introduction

Although United States ranks as one of the countries that spends the most amount of money in health care, we have yet to see the results in today's health care system, especially among minority groups. A growing concern regarding our health system resides with the increasing amount of immigrant population, particularly Hispanic and/or Latino. Conflicts arise mainly with the fact on whether equal quality care should be accessible to illegal Hispanic and/or Latino immigrants and how it can be done without implicating legal taxpayers' money. However, as this group of individuals continues, so does the amount of people who are uninsured and lack access to proper medical care.

Scope of Issue

Access to health care in United States is closely related to health insurance, and health insurance is tied to employment, (LaVeist, 2005). Immigration status places limitations on employment options and lack of a legal status makes finding a well paid job that offers insurance even more challenging and the main issue immigrants struggle the most with. Other issues such as poverty, language and cultural barriers are also significant factors in impeding illegal aliens from obtaining good quality care. Having equal quality care however, should not be an option but a benefit that should be available to all residents and individuals.

Data Illustration

The following graph was compiled using data provided by the Center for Disease Control regarding Health Insurance Coverage from a National Health Interview Survey released in January—June 2010. Numbers are representations of percentages of persons.

Advocacy Plan

Based on the medical meeting by the ACP that occurred in San Diego, CA on April 7th, 2011:

• Increase community awareness about how health care access for immigrants regardless of their legal status should be a nationwide concern.
• Emphasize the importance of having policies that prevent discrimination in health care because of an individual’s immigration status.
• Uphold physicians’s to their medical and ethical responsibility in providing equal quality care regardless of a patient’s legal status.
• Facilitate health care coverage for illegal aliens while protecting taxpayer rights and benefits.
• Enable equal health care access to children of immigrants born in the U.S.
• Provide culturally competent and adequate clinical facilities that are supported by the federal government.

References


