



SUBSTANTIVE INPUT

for the 13th session of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing
for the purpose of strengthening the protection of the
human rights of older persons

FOCUS AREA:

RIGHT TO HEALTH AND ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES

In the United States of America, healthcare is provided by many distinct organizations, made up of insurance companies, healthcare providers, hospital systems, and independent providers. Healthcare facilities are largely owned and operated by private-sector businesses. Almost 58% of community hospitals in the US are being run by nonprofit organizations, approximately 21% of hospitals are government-owned, and the remaining almost 21% are being run by business houses.

In the country, public spending on health care and medicine is highly correlated with age; average per capita public spending for seniors was more than five times that for children.

The right to health does not guarantee a right to be healthy, but

it does
oblige

governments to enact policies promoting available and affordable basic health services without discrimination. Governments should take particular care to ensure access to health care and support systems for those most likely to, face obstacles – the poor, minorities, persons with disabilities, women, and children, among others.

Over the years, it has been observed that many of the state policies have instead undermined this fundamental human right, particularly of older persons.

“The right to the highest attainable standard of health” implies a clear set of legal obligations on states to ensure appropriate conditions for the enjoyment of health for all people without discrimination.



Agewell Foundation USA, Inc.

(Accredited with The Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing at United Nations since 2019)

62 W 47th ST STE 707, New York, NY 10036, agewellfoundationusa@gmail.com www.agewellfoundationusa.org



Government should understand the fact that without access to health care, needy seniors cannot exercise their right to life, and thus health care becomes a positive right that must be provided by the government to all members of society. And older persons, facing acute medical conditions should be prioritized at all levels.

Although the foundation of the argument that health care should be accessible to all fundamentally rests upon a moral obligation and societal duty, the provision of health care in society is, at its core, a constitutional duty of the Government, and government must allocate adequate resources for this sector. Standard, health care must be ensured for all.

Most Americans find it difficult to reconcile their notions of social justice with the fact that some 36 million people, most of whom are employed or are dependents of someone employed, lack basic health insurance coverage.

Unlike many industrialized countries, the United States is often employing different strategies to negotiate the extent of the governmental duty to provide health care and adjunctive social services that contribute to health.



About 1 in 10 people in the United States don't have health insurance. People without insurance are less likely to have a primary care provider, and they may not be able to afford the health care services and medications they need.

The government must focus on improving health by helping people get timely, high-quality healthcare services.

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