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Mrs. Schultz

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Factoid Friday – Confirmation #2

“The Fix for American Health Care Can Be Found in Europe.” *The Economist*, The Economist Newspaper, 10 Aug. 2017, www.economist.com/news/united-states/21726124-policymakers-should-take-close-look-fix-american-health-care-can-be-found. *The Economist*, in an examination of various European healthcare systems, urges the United States to consider various forms of universal health care found in Europe on the basis of their positive economic implications for both the government and consumers. *The Economist* first references the recent failure of the Republicans’ ‘skinny repeal,’ highlighting the contention over healthcare and the lack of agreement on legislation. The article then proceeds to pin both parties’ hesitance to endorse single-payer systems and universal programs as a result of hasty stigmatization of socialized medicine and European politics. The piece then goes on to introduce three forms of healthcare that most European countries can be sorted into: the first being socialized medicine where insurance and care are nationalized, the second being a universal healthcare system where insurance is run by the government but care is provided through the private sector, and the last system where regulation and subsidies ensure a mixed private sector where all people are insured. After summarizing the healthcare systems of Europe, the article criticizes America’s “bewildering hodgepodge of private and public systems,” descriptively detailing the inconsistencies of single-payer healthcare systems for the rich



and poor, each regulated differently, while businesses, for-profit insurance companies, and exchanges make up the difference to cover only 90% of American citizens. The article continues to berate the American system, stressing its failure in providing Americans affordable and effective care, providing statistics on GDP and chronic health to substantiate its claims. The piece closes with a final defense of universal health care and a repeated proposal for American consideration of European systems.

Universal healthcare is an essential component of an economically sustainable healthcare system for the United States' government and its consumers. "The Fix for American Health Care Can Be Found in Europe" presents several data points and statistics as it condemns the current American healthcare system, noting that healthcare spending accounts for 17% of the US Gross Domestic Product, where no European country exceeds 12%. Other statistics on Americans' life expectancies and chronic health problems further establish the credibility of the paper and the verifiability of the argument through data. The article also relies on logical appeals as it rips apart the inconsistencies and flaws of the American healthcare system, namely its hybridization of private and public care without appropriate regulation, exhibited in the abundance of programs ranging from Medicare and Medicaid, to the Veteran's Administration, to subsidized health insurance exchanges. This article will be valuable in emphasizing the flaws of America's current healthcare system and the urgency for reform. The piece is highly credible as it is published in *The Economist*, a respected magazine recognized for its analysis of the financial ramifications of policies and events. "The Fix for American Health Care" is also current and relays information in the context of the current political climate and the efforts towards healthcare reform legislation.