

I am 63 years old.
I live with my 96 year old mother. (She has Medicare & Blue Cross)
I am her care giver. There is no money to hire help.
I have only been able to find seasonal, temporary, and part-time no benefits jobs.
At \$8.50, \$9.50 an hour, everything is consumed for food and gas.
Wyandotte Area on Aging told me I would have to pay \$300 a month.
I was told I did not make enough MONEY to even qualify for a subsidy.
We own our home...not renting, there is no mortgage.

I have no children.
I have no spouse.
I am not a vet
I am not on food stamps.
I do not live in section 8 housing
I am not an ex-con in a transition program
I am not on an alcohol substance abuse back to society transition program
I am not homeless (yet)
I am not a single mom on ADC with 7 children by 7 different men
I'm not mentally challenged with MR, bi-polar, schizophrenic, PTSD
I'm not deaf or blind
I am physically challenged

Any of the above criteria should qualify me for a health care subsidy

I do not receive unemployment
I do not receive social security
I do not receive disability
I do have serious arthritis in my hips and knees which limits the kind of work I can do.
I cannot do work that requires continuous standing

The folks in DC who are Ivy League scholars and majored in economics means they really know how to crunch the numbers.

It's food or pharmacy?
water, electricity, phone
propane gas (not city gas)
Home owners insurance
car insurance
life insurance
(mother's)health insurance
\$715 bi-annual property tax

Your question I'm sure is how do we eat?
I volunteer at a non-profit where there is food. We go to annual civic and social events, funerals and weddings which always serve food. I go to the food pantry.

A neighbor with a garden gives us food from time to time.

I did graduate from high school
I do have a BA degree

I am not a MENSA scholar but as long as employers only want to pay \$8 an hour and only want to you employ you for part time this problem will never be solved.

For a REAL reality TV program members of Congress with no access to any of their resources should be forced to live for 90 days on \$8 an hour.

We are supposed to be a nation based on the Judeo-Christian ethic-- Treat others as you yourself would like to be treated. Love your neighbor as you love yourself. Oh, I forgot those lawmakers tossed out God and the 10 Commandments...
When you put God out, you let the devil in.

At \$8 an hour you can't put away a nest egg to save for a rainy day.

You can't invest in an IRA or stocks and bonds

The crux of the matter, if we have **full time jobs paying \$13 an hour** we can fend for ourselves and pay for a health plan ourselves that includes optical, dental, pharmacy, hospital and doctor's visits.

'If you think the cost of education is expensive you don't know the cost of ignorance'

To paraphrase, If you think the cost of healthcare, employers hiring full time with a pay scale above \$8 and and offering a comprehensive healthcare package, then they cannot foresee the impact and aftermath of millions of baby boomers turning 65 with no nest egg, no healthcare and no housing.

Build more section 8 housing for seniors and put them all on government sponsored healthcare (like Cuba) resulting in institutionalized generations of poverty or build more prisons for those who commit crimes to acquire their daily needs. Others will just be found dead in their apartments or on the streets due to inability to get their heart, diabetic and high blood pressure meds.

The streets of Argentina and Brazil are a testament to neglect and indifference. This isn't hysteria, it's reality. The right to pursue happiness is being deliberately blocked by corporate America. The poor steal for need, the rich steal for greed. Congress, Senate, how can you be smart, yet act so stupid?

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