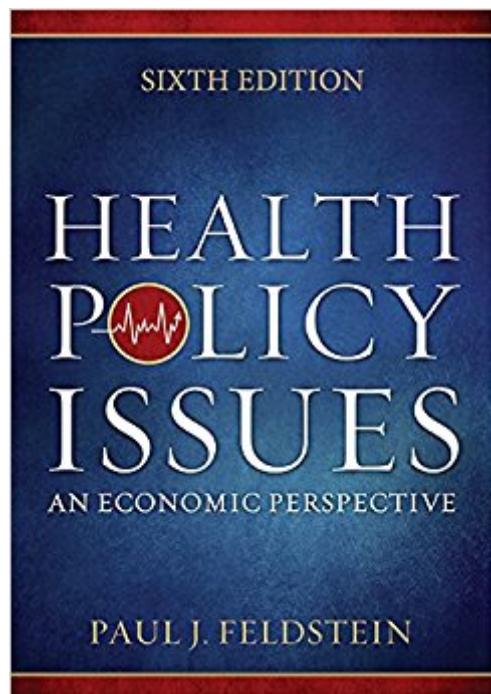


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# Health Policy Issues: An Economic Perspective, Sixth Edition



## **Synopsis**

The Affordable Care Act (ACA), the most significant public policy enacted in many years, affects all aspects of healthcare financing and delivery. *Health Policy Issues: An Economic Perspective*, Sixth Edition, has been thoroughly revised to explain the magnitude of this legislation and how it affects everyone, including physicians, hospitals, employers, employees, insurers, the uninsured, and state and federal governments. Renowned economist Paul Feldstein not only addresses the underlying issues and politics of healthcare but also explains why the health system has evolved to its current state. Thirty-six short, topical chapters give students a comprehensive overview of the delivery of medical services through a unique economic perspective. Reflecting the widespread implications of the ACA, specific components of the ACA are discussed in the context of many of the book's chapters. Consequently, the ACA is linked to topics such as: The rise of medical expenditures The high price of prescription drugs The impending shortage of physicians The future role of hospitals The evolution of managed care The new edition of this highly regarded book incorporates current events, recent data, and new research to promote classroom discussion about the more significant issues underlying the politics and economics of healthcare. Ideally suited for health policy and economics courses, this book encourages students to think critically and clearly about issues involving physicians, nurses, health insurance, competition, the pharmaceutical industry, and more. This book includes a glossary of terms and an appendix that briefly summarizes the ACA.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

"Health Policy Issues stands out among the crowd of health policy texts. It is the most up to date, from an economic and issues perspective, of any on the market. The book is very concise and uses strong pedagogical strategies -- short chapters, discussion questions, notes of key points, and further readings. Many chapters in the new edition are revamped to include the changes due to the ACA. The chapter on the politics of healthcare reform delves into the issues and economics of the next phase of implementation. The appendix is a nice overview of the ACA and the glossary offers a very complete list of key terms." --Doody's Review Service

Paul J. Feldstein, PhD, has been a professor and the Robert Gumbiner Chair in Health Care Management at the Paul Merage School of Business, University of California, Irvine, since 1987. His previous position was at the University of Michigan as a professor in both the Department of Economics and the School of Public Health. Before that, he was the director of the Division of Research at the American Hospital Association. Professor Feldstein received his PhD from the University of Chicago.

I am using this book to teach a class on Shaping Health Policy at a major university. I searched for a suitable text that was both up to date and tried to explain the big picture rather than becoming totally mired in details. Some of the texts, frankly, put me to sleep. This is the best I found. The text basically covers the early implementation of the ACA though it did not deal with the most recent Medicare amendments (hardly its fault). The book has good problems for students to work through, some useful charts, and contains a valuable bibliography. It takes what I would describe as a classic liberal economic approach to the issues, although often that leads to conclusions that many of today's liberals may not like. The prose is clear and there are excellent teacher resources. It also contains useful chapters comparing the American system with those of other nations. There are two areas that may bother some people: (1) the book is opinionated; I would describe it as somewhat conservative in its orientation; (2) the book does not integrate legal citations into its analysis -- for those who want to find out exactly what the law says, this is a disadvantage. I also wish the book had a little more on the role of Intellectual Property in shaping Health Policy Issues. All in all, however, this is an outstanding book on an incredibly broad and challenging subject. It must have been a HUGE amount of work to write it.

This text is written from a strictly economic perspective of health policy. Everything is considered in terms of costs and benefits. This is a helpful viewpoint to have exposure to for future health

professionals but one should keep that there are other arguments for distribution of health resources. The author is evenhanded and fair except for his views on the Canadian healthcare system. His tone seems to shift to become much more personal and emotional and he makes assumptions without providing evidence.

Expensive book but, covers all the changes to health care in the U.S.

This is an easily digestible and very written text on the healthcare industry as it relates to the general economy. It also provides a very good basis for insurance concepts, economic terms, and how policy levers impact the decisions people make.

This book is opinionated and laden with fuzzy logic. Many arguments are poorly supported and will quickly be discarded by anyone working in healthcare. In addition, the author treats healthcare services as a commodity that all of us can choose to buy or not, similar to luxury condos, cars or jewelry. There is no basic assumption in this book that healthcare is a right for citizens, or even a socially necessary service. However, we cannot avoid the economic issues of large scale cost shifting when you cut healthcare services. For example, if Medicaid cuts the support for addiction treatment to save money, the costs associated with the opioid crisis will be shifted to the police and hospital emergency departments. That is a more expensive way of dealing with the problem. When certain states make the poor pay for Medicaid (or lose coverage), many illnesses that can be treated cheaply at the primary care level will be shifted to emergency departments and acute care. If you believe that rich nations should provide a basic level of public health services to its citizens, or that access to healthcare is a right (not charity), then book is not for you. If you want know more about US healthcare, a much better and cheaper option is The Health Care Handbook: A Clear and Concise Guide to the United States Health Care System by Askin and Moore.

An excellent book to read.

This is a nice, easy read book. The seller shipped it fast, and the item was in excellent condition.

This is a textbook for a class, but it is very easy to read. The concepts are easy to understand and the chapters are very short.

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