

Rebecca B. Lunstroth, J.D., M.A.

Rebecca B. Lunstroth is an Instructor in Family Medicine and the Assistant Director of the John P. McGovern, M.D. Center for Health, Humanities and the Human Spirit at the University of Texas Medical School at Houston. She joined the center in October, 2004, shortly after it was created. Ms. Lunstroth is engaged in medical education and is a frequent lecturer on the United States Health Care System and its future. She is co-director of the second year Ethics and Professionalism class and the Medical Humanities Certificate Program and develops curriculum and conducts research into the effectiveness of a medical humanities education. Additionally, Ms. Lunstroth runs the day to day affairs of the McGovern Center which promotes excellence in scholarship and teaching in medical humanities and ethics.

Ms. Lunstroth received a Masters in Medical Humanities from UTMB in December, 2006. Her master's thesis was about the demise of employer-based health insurance. In 1988, she was awarded a J.D. from South Texas College of Law and she completed her undergraduate studies at Indiana University where she majored in economics.

Her current research interests are in U.S. health policy and the economics of various payer systems.

Prior to joining UTHSC-H, Rebecca spent 14 years at Shell Oil in a variety of positions including human resources management, operations management and health and safety.

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**Abstract**

**Private Health Insurance Perpetuates Health Disparities: Do our Presidential Candidates Have a Viable Solution?**

Currently, 60% of all Americans receive health insurance through their employers, down from 68% in 2000. A closer look at this statistic reveals that minority populations are largely disadvantaged by our employer-based system since they are over-represented among part-time workers, temporary workers and those working for small companies which do not offer health insurance. Is there a viable solution in sight? In the upcoming presidential campaign the two likely nominees have very different views on how to cure our broken system. This presentation will discuss the candidates' health care proposals (expanding our current system vs. severing health insurance from one's employer) and the likely impact they would have on minority populations

# ***Disparities in Health in America:***

***Working Toward Social Justice***

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## **What Do Physicians In Training Think About Cultural Competency in Health Care?**

***Ilana Mittman, PhD, MS, CGC***

*University of Maryland*

*Department of Health & Mental Hygiene  
Office of Minority Health & Health Disparities  
Workforce Diversity Director / Instructor*

## **Culture Clash: *The Medical Encounter as a Source of Health Disparities***

***Cayla Teal, PhD***

*Baylor College of Medicine- Department of Medicine  
Section of Health Services Research  
Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center-Houston  
Associate Professor*

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