

Health care insurance key political issue in the USA

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There is a growing literature on Wal-Mart, it is not only the largest private employer in the USA as Charatan noted,[1] but it is also the world's largest retailer.[2] Wal-Mart's effect on society has been raised by many researchers, for example, its pricing policies, its distribution system, the treatment of its employees, its anti-trade union stance, the impact on communities (especially rural ones), and small retailers.[2-5] This has generated a lot of "unwelcome publicity" for Wal-Mart.[5] The public outcry is spurred partly from Wal-Mart's low wages and substandard health care benefits to its non-unionized employees,[6] and it is claimed by critics that Wal-Mart's employees have to be in part supported by public subsidies for health care and public services.[4]

In the light of this Wal-Mart's unexpected support for Obama's health reforms as reported by Charatan seem strange. Most likely it a case of Wal-Mart seeing the way the wind is blowing and recognizing that Obama's plans for health reform are much more likely to be accepted than Clinton's ever were. It seems to be that Wal-Mart unusual siding with trade unions in the USA is a case of jumping before being pushed.

## References

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