

Cookies Notification

This site uses cookies. By continuing to browse the site you are agreeing to our use of cookies.

[Find out more.](#)[Accept](#)

RESEARCH ARTICLE

[HEALTH AFFAIRS](#) > [VOL. 13, NO. 2](#)

The Economic Individual Man

[Alan B. Krueger](#) and [Uwe E. Reinhardt](#)PUBLISHED: **SPRING 1994** **No Access**

Abstract

Prologue:

America's belief in solving large problems by government action has guaranteed a solution to President Clinton's administration's proposed requirement for universal health insurance coverage has been attacked as too regulatory for the American people. Economists Alan Krueger and Uwe Reinhardt argue: "If policymakers wish all Americans to have portable health insurance coverage, they must mandate that coverage.... Absent a mandate, millions of American families would simply choose to remain uninsured." Krueger and Reinhardt, both of whom are professors of economics at Princeton University, discuss the financing of health care, explaining how most practitioners of their discipline view a mandate on employers to provide health insurance to their workers. Krueger is the Bendheim Professor of Economics and Public Affairs at Princeton's Woodrow Wilson School. He is coeditor of the *Journal of Economic Perspectives* and has published widely on labor market issues. He

HealthAffairs
**INSIDE
EVENT**

Site-Neutral Payments: A Quick Primer

April 23, 2025 | 2:00 pm ET

[Register today](#)

received his doctorate in economics from Harvard. Reinhardt is a well-known figure in health policy circles in the United States and abroad. A born teacher and a naturalized American, Reinhardt spent his early years in Germany, but he took his university training in Canada and at Yale University, from which he earned a doctorate in economics. Reinhardt has eclectic intellectual tastes. While a strong believer in markets, he also recognizes Canada's tax-financed health care system and Germany's social insurance scheme as approaches that provide their populations equitable protection against the uncertain nature of illness.

Abstract: This paper reviews the economic implications of employer and individual health insurance mandates. Although the cost of meeting an employer mandate is nominally paid by employers, in the long run much of the cost may be shifted backward to employees in the form of lower wages. We also compare the consequences of hypothetical employer and individual health insurance mandates for families with different income levels. Depending on their structure, an employer mandate may be more or less progressive than an individual mandate.

TOPICS

[EMPLOYER MANDATE](#) | [PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE](#) | [INDIVIDUAL MANDATE](#) | [PREMIUMS](#) | [MARKETS](#) | [TAXES](#) | [COST REDUCTION](#) | [LOW INCOME](#) | [COSTS AND SPENDING](#) | [FEDERAL HEALTH PLANS](#)

Loading Comments...

HealthAffairs

1220 19th Street, NW, Suite 800

Washington, DC 20036

T 202 408 6801

F 301 654 2845

customerservice@healthaffairs.org

TOPICS

Access & Use
Costs & Spending
COVID-19
Health Equity
Health Reform
Leading To Health
More Topics

CONTENT

Journal
Forefront
Scholar
Briefs

Events
Podcasts
Collected Works

INFORMATION FOR

Authors
Request For Abstracts
Reviewers
Subscribers
Advertisers
Media News Room
Funders
Event Attendees

SERVICES & RESOURCES

Submit Content
Subscribe
Renew
Manage My Account
Purchase Content
Permissions
Alerts
Newsletter Sign Up
Advertising Kit

HEALTH AFFAIRS

About
Impact Report
Terms & Conditions
Privacy Policy
Jobs At Health Affairs
Fellowships
Contact Us



Standard of
Excellence
Winner



[Terms and conditions](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Project HOPE](#)

Health Affairs is pleased to offer [Free Access for low-income countries](#). Health Affairs gratefully acknowledges the support of many [funders](#).

Health Affairs is an official journal of [AcademyHealth](#).

Health Affairs and its health policy publications are editorially independent from its publisher, [Project HOPE](#), a nonprofit global health and humanitarian organization. Project HOPE has published Health Affairs since 1981.

