



U.S. most expensive health care
system in the world, by far

U.S. only advanced country
without universal insurance
coverage



Quality of care variable;
high overhead; fragmented

Large “unexplained” small-area
variations in services



WHY?



Privatization and Industrialization



U.S. Health “Industry”

Investor-owned hospitals, clinics

Private insurance plans

Competition for market share and income

Specialized fee-for-service physicians

Conflicts of interest



Profession or Business?

Social Service or Private Industry?

U.S. Courts: Anti-Trust



The Future of U.S. Health Care and Needed Reforms



Resistance to Reform

Anti-government ideology

“Innovation myth”

Private Insurers

Pharmaceutical & Service Industries



Lessons for Canada

Preserve and strengthen Medicare

Beware Privatization

Eliminate fee-for-service

Encourage prepaid multi-specialty
groups