

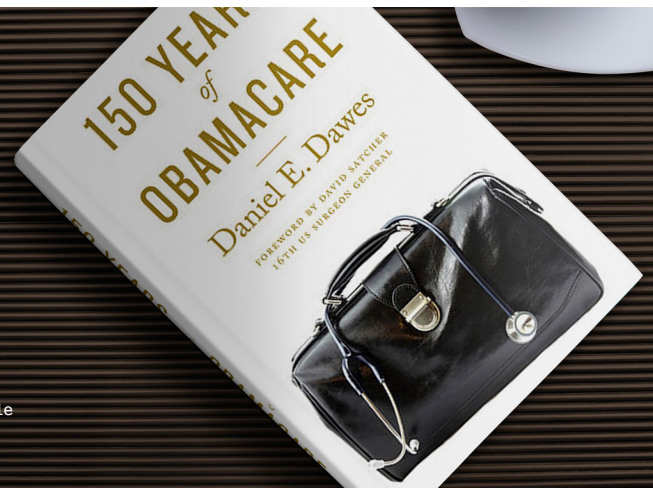


Daniel E. Dawes

Commentator / Elections & Healthcare Expert / Policy Strategist

“...An illuminating study for anyone who cares about health equity!”

~ Patrick J. Kennedy,
Former Congressman,
Author of A Common Struggle



Areas of Expertise

- ▶ **Elections and healthcare**
- ▶ **Expert on Healthcare Policy, including:**
 - » Health Reform
 - » Health Equity
 - » Health System Transformation
 - » Universal Health
 - » Minority Health
 - » Mental Health
 - » Medicaid
 - » Laws - ACA/ObamaCare & MACRA

Potential Discussion Topics

- ▶ Why Bernie Sanders supporters should support ObamaCare and therefore vote for Hillary Clinton
- ▶ Why Hillary **Clinton** supporters should be vigilant to protect ObamaCare.
- ▶ How Donald **Trump** supporters are missing the point of ObamaCare.
- ▶ How the general election will affect the state and local elections and what that means for health insurance coverage, Medicaid, etc.
- ▶ ObamaCare vs. The Ryan Plan
- ▶ Health Equity as a Civil Rights Issue
- ▶ How ObamaCare affects our everyday lives:
 - » If you have insurance - you pay for the uninsured
 - » If you live in the South - you suffer inferior quality of care
 - » If you are a woman or minority - you suffer from great disparities
- ▶ How health reform affects the economy
- ▶ The author's book explores the backstory, current status and analysis of the Affordable Care Act (ACA).



Daniel E. Dawes

Author of New Book ~ 150 Years of ObamaCare

Talking Points

1. ObamaCare can still be repealed, contrary to the beliefs of many supporters. Republicans are not bluffing; they have repealed major health reform laws throughout our nation's history. If voters do not lend their voice to the issue, Obamacare could be repealed with detrimental effects on the health care system. We must fight for the Affordable Care Act (ACA) if we want it to survive.
2. Donald Trump would be devastating to the healthcare system, and the health of vulnerable citizens. His proposals only serve to benefit the healthy and the wealthy.
3. Surprise! Republicans actually support much of ObamaCare! When the Republican-led Congress passed the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA) they actually reauthorized most of the programs that were in the ACA and even expanded some policies. ObamaCare has just become a political talking point rather than a matter of true substantive differences. Additionally, throughout history Republicans have supported many of the provisions found within ObamaCare.
4. They only true area of disagreement between Democrats and Republicans on the ACA is the health insurance reforms which includes the individual mandate, women's reproductive care, and more.
5. Mental Health and Health Equity - Advocates have been pushing for mental health reforms for over a century now and has been defeated or repealed every time. ObamaCare is the first time we have seen comprehensive Mental Health Reform. We cannot afford a repeal of ObamaCare which would be devastating and would set us back in terms of mental health reforms. During a time when mental health concerns have come to light in the wake of increased gun violence we cannot afford to turn back.
6. Minority Health and Health Equity - In the early 1800's we had a fairly comprehensive minority health law enacted only for it to be repealed after just seven short years. Today we are in year six of ObamaCare. Could ObamaCare suffer the same fate as the 1800's minority health law? Yes, it certainly could if we are not vigilant to protect it. The health of the minority population depends on equitable laws that will address the staggering disparities that exist.
7. Women's Health and Health Equity - One of the most contentious portions of ObamaCare are the provisions regarding health insurance reforms which includes policies supporting women's reproductive health.
8. There are reasons ObamaCare is not yet working to its fullest potential and repealing the law is not the answer. We need to a) expand Medicaid to close the coverage gap and b) ensure risk-corridor subsidies are paid to insurers as promised.
9. ObamaCare is historic! For the first time in history the most comprehensive and inclusive health reform law was enacted. The law was the culmination of 150 years of advocacy work, particularly regarding Minority Health, Mental Health and Universal Health.
10. Why is Medicaid Expansion so important (a simplified explanation)? Medicaid Expansion is a critical provision included in ObamaCare. Without expanding Medicaid, a large coverage gap remains, which results in millions of uninsured Americans. ObamaCare ensures coverage for those at or above 100% of the poverty line. Currently, in certain states, Medicaid only covers those at approx. 44% of the poverty line and under. Those who fall above 44% and below 100% are therefore not covered in the states that have not expanded coverage. In order for ObamaCare to fully reduce the rate of the uninsured and therefore maximize our ability to reduce healthcare costs states need to expand Medicaid, as outlined in the ACA to cover more citizens.
11. Understanding the benefits of Medicaid - Not only is Medicaid Expansion a critical piece of ObamaCare it is imperative that citizens understand this is not the Medicaid of the past. Medicaid now offers more comprehensive essential health benefits, including mental health benefits and preventive services and has been successful in reducing disparities between racial and ethnic groups for HIV/AIDS treatments and vaccination rates.



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- 12. Why insurers are leaving the exchanges: Risk Corridor Subsidies were promised to help limit the effects of financial losses to insurers who joined the exchange programs. The Federal government agreed to temporarily pay insurers who suffered losses as an incentive to enter the exchanges in the first place and to stabilize the volatility that they knew would exist during the early years of implementation of the law. However, opponents of the Affordable Care Act have prevented insurers from recouping their losses through subsidies as promised. As a result many insurers suffered great losses and are leaving the exchanges resulting in less options for consumers and undermining the success of the ACA.
- 13. Why those with employer-based health insurance should embrace ObamaCare and deny Donald Trump a win. How Donald Trump supporters are missing the point of ObamaCare - many of his demographic supporters would be negatively impacted by his suggestion to repeal ObamaCare. In fact, of all racial and ethnic groups, whites have gained the most under ObamaCare (9 million whites have gained insurance under the ACA reducing their uninsured rate by 50%), and the ACA includes robust behavioral health provisions to address the opioid epidemic afflicting this group.
- 14. Mr. Dawes' book 150 Years of ObamaCare explains the history of health reform, the current state of our health system, and how we need to move forward. 150 Years of ObamaCare highlights how and why the health reform law became the most inclusive law ever passed by Congress, not only in terms of its content, but in terms of the process - the stakeholders who were brought to the table, including racial and ethnic minorities, LGBT individuals, women, people with disabilities, and veterans. The book also highlights what we have left to do to ensure these reforms are not only implemented, but implemented in a manner that will greatly benefit all of our communities.

Biography

Daniel E. Dawes Biography

Attorney Daniel E. Dawes is a nationally recognized leader in the health equity movement and has led numerous efforts to address health policy issues impacting vulnerable, underserved, and marginalized populations. He is a health care attorney and administrator, and serves as the executive director of government affairs and health policy at Morehouse School of Medicine. He is also a lecturer of health law and policy at the Satcher Health Leadership Institute.

Dawes was instrumental in shaping the Affordable Care Act (ObamaCare) and founded and chaired the largest advocacy group, the National Working Group on Health Disparities and Health Reform, focused on developing comprehensive, inclusive and meaningful legislation to reform the health care system and address the disparities in health care and health status among racial and ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, women, children, LGBT individuals, and other vulnerable groups in the United States. He is the co-founder of the Health Equity Leadership and Exchange Network (HELEN), which is a national network of health equity champions in virtually every state and territory.

Dawes often lectures and presents on health law and policy while serving simultaneously on several boards, commissions, and councils focused on health equity and health reform. He is an advisor to international, national, regional, state and municipal policymakers, as well as think tanks, associations, foundations, corporations, and nonprofit organizations.

