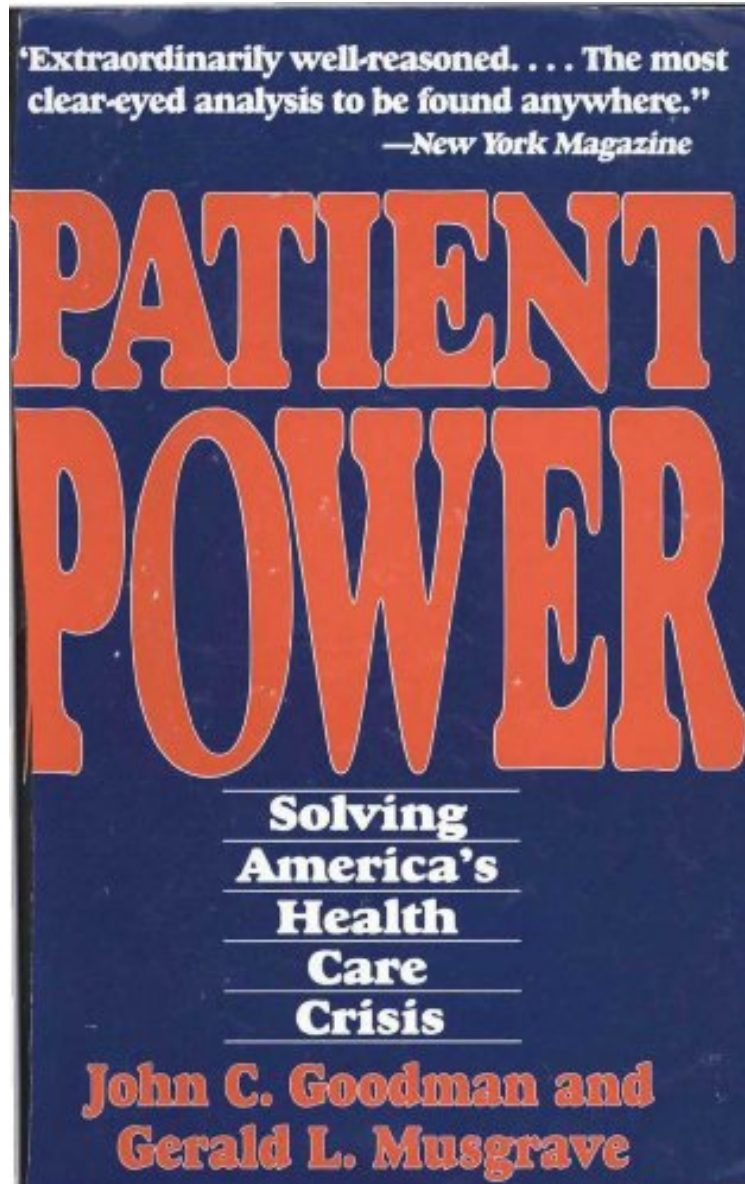


Patient Power: Solving America's Health Care Crisis

John C. Goodman, Gerald L. Musgrave

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John C. Goodman, Gerald L. Musgrave : Patient Power: Solving America's Health Care Crisis before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Patient Power: Solving America's Health Care Crisis:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A MODERATELY LIBERTARIAN PERSPECTIVE ON HEALTH

CAREBy Steven H ProppThe authors of this 1992 Cato Institute book state in the Preface, "The thesis of this book is simple: If we want to solve the nation's health care crisis, we must apply the same common-sense principles to medical care that we apply to other goods and services... our approach is individualistic, focusing on the decisions that individuals make and the incentives they face when they make them."In their outline of an "ideal health care system," they suggest that "Government---in its role as an insurer of last resort---would no longer serve as a buyer of health care but would pay health insurance premiums for indigent policyholders." (Pg. 30) Later, they add, "hospitals would be expected to cover their costs while charging competitive prices to all patients. Some provision would exist to reimburse hospitals for indigent care under carefully defined conditions. When those conditions are met, the best solution would be to reimburse hospitals from public funds rather than attempting to shift the cost of care to other patients." (Pg. 120)They assert, "The real question is whether procedures are worth their cost. And the only people who can accurately answer that question are patients who can choose to spend that same money on other goods and services." (Pg. 117) They add, "Most unnecessary surgery today is unnecessary only in the sense that it's not worth the cost. In an ideal health care system, patients would be encouraged to weigh its benefits against its costs and have the option of forgoing the procedure and spending the money elsewhere." (Pg. 120)The note that "Under the Reagan administration, the Social Security Advisory Council proposed that the eligibility age for Medicare be raised from 65 to 67. If this proposal were adopted... (African-Americans) could always expect to receive virtually nothing from Medicare." (Pg. 429-430)They argue, "countries that have succeeded in slowing the growth of health care spending have done so by denying services, not by using resources efficiently." (Pg. 503) They grimly conclude, "Decisions on who will receive care, who will not, and how that care will be delivered are left to the hospital bureaucracy because no other course is politically possible." (Pg. 547)A detailed and broad analysis, this book is still relevant---the more so given the current health care debates.2 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Every American should read this book.By stormdEvery American and every Congressman and woman should be given this book to read. We are now going through the lefts attack on free enterprise and capitalism. They want us all under a massive centralized government health agency that will destroy the private healthcare industry, raise prices dramatically, lower our medical care quality, and ration healthcare to all Americans. Patient Power demonstrates how everyone in the US can receive excellent and affordable healthcare by empowering individuals and families and returning healthcare to where it belongs to the patient and their doctors.

A popular explanation of how tax-free medical savings accounts would work. Strippable.