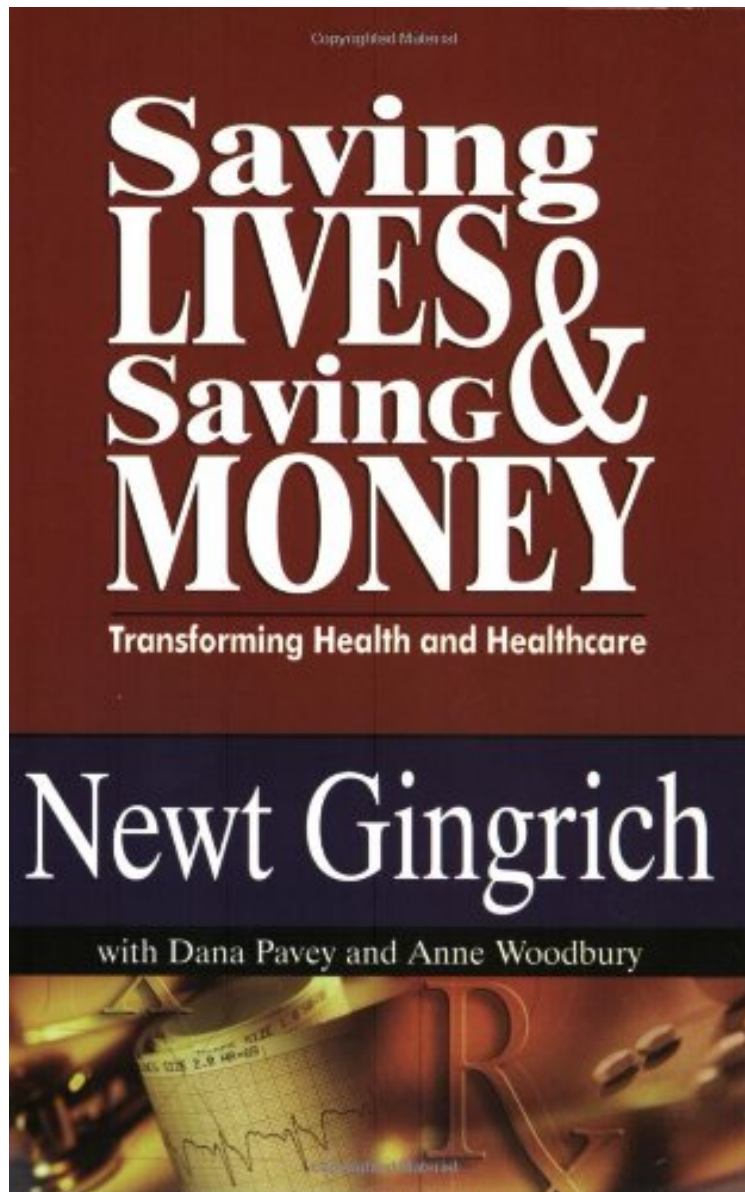


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Saving Lives Saving Money

Newt Gingrich

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Newt Gingrich : Saving Lives Saving Money before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Saving Lives Saving Money:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Boring and outdatedBy Ali CatLost interest in this book about 1/4 way through. Will donate it. Outdated information. There are some good ideas in the book.56 of 62 people found the

following review helpful. Worthwhile Ideas and References That Need Editing By Tucker Andersen This book was written by former Speaker Gingrich and his associates for several reasons. First, to lay out the case in Chapter 2 "why reforming healthcare is doomed to fail and only a process of [completely] transforming health and healthcare can succeed". Second, to provoke a national debate and evolve a strategy for the solution one of the greatest potential political and budget crises of the early part of this century as the baby boomers reach retirement age and Medicare's unfunded liabilities skyrocket. And last, to provide examples of "transforming methodologies" that are actually being successfully utilized today and references to other information sources (including many web sites). He firmly believes that is possible to achieve the twin goals summarized in the book's title and have better health care while spending less at the same time. This book posits that the single greatest problem (but by no means the only one) with our current healthcare system is the third party payor system that has arisen from the perverse incentives introduced into the tax code that have made employer provided healthcare the dominant organizational methodology in our country today. The effects of these incentives are exacerbated by the increasing share of medical spending being reimbursed through the government Medicare and Medicaid programs. Consumers of healthcare are frustrated because their choices are limited; providers are frustrated by the bureaucracy, paperwork and interference with their medical judgment as well as the lack of tort reform; and the funders (taxpayers and employers) are horrified by the rate of increase in their costs. One of the unintended consequences of these incentives is that the system treats illness much more effectively than it promotes health and personal responsibility for the consequences of your actions. The book contains many interesting insights on the role of technology, not only in the administration and provision of more responsive service by providers and in recordkeeping that minimizes duplication of effort and decreases the prevalence of errors but also in the furthering of scientific advances themselves. The frontier of medical and scientific discovery today is at the intersection of chemistry, physics and biotechnology, and chapter nine provides some observations in this regard. The overall tone of the book is both urgent and hopeful, as the author clearly understands the huge political difficulties in changing such a complex system with so many different constituencies. This book definitely a worthwhile read for anyone interested in a broadbrush approach by a serious student of the subject with the perspective that the author brings to the topic. However, the book suffers from some flaws. First, it is a collection of loosely connected chapters. They are somewhat sequential but can stand on their own. The disadvantage of this approach is that there is an incredible amount of repetitive material if one reads the whole book. While the emphasis of some of the points is appropriate, this is a mix of anecdotes, exhortation, well thought out proposals, interesting information, and moral outrage at the consequences of the perverse incentives of our current system (unnecessary death and suffering). Second, the former Speaker lapses into his habit of occasionally getting so excited about the potential impact of something that he believes it is necessary to mandate it at the federal level (e.g. an immediately accessible computerized database of all medical information for each individual) despite all the evidence that this will stifle creativity and curb further beneficial evolutionary developments. In addition to the very negative implications for our liberty.) Third and most discouraging, he proposes very large increases in federal spending in several areas, indicating his belief in market failure and his lack of faith that individuals and private industry will make the appropriate choices with regard to such areas as funding basic research, preventive treatment for diabetes, etc. Such suggestions seem at odds with the basic premise of this book, i.e. that informed consumers with the appropriate knowledge deserve the maximum amount of flexibility in their healthcare choices and need to accept as much personal responsibility in their consumption of healthcare as in other areas of their lives. Thus, while I want to encourage widespread readership of this book and discussion of its ideas, it does not deserve five stars. Disclaimer: the author is a personal friend of mine, but he never requested that I review it and my copy was purchased at this site, not provided free to me. I serve on the Board of Directors of an organization which he once headed, and healthcare reform is one area that we both agree is crucial to our country's future, although we disagree on many aspects of various proposed reforms. We agree in the areas of public policy where my libertarian ideals intersect with his conservative principles, while strongly disagreeing in such areas as the decriminalization of many currently illegal substances. I believe that my review is objective with regard to this book but wanted the readers of this review to have all relevant information that might have influenced my recommendation. Tucker Andersen 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Saving Money Saving Lives By Penny Louise Flavin Answered many questions, provoked thought, led to other questions. Pointed to EMR as necessary in medicine, strengthened personal responsibility argument

Saving Lives Saving Money is a transforming approach to the challenge of creating a better system of health and healthcare for the twenty-first century. Learn more about designing a twenty-first century health and healthcare system at Newt.org.

"...Newt Gingrich is taking on one of the biggest issues facing America today - this time, it's the healthcare crisis." -- Tommy G. Thompson, Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services "If you want to know what the future of healthcare can be, please read this book. Highly recommended." -- Dean Ornish, M.D., Founder and President, Preventative Medicine Research Institute; Clinical Professor of Medicine, University of California, San

Francisco; Author, Dr. Dean Ornish's Program for Reversing Heart Disease"Whatever your views and your state of health, you will find Saving Lives Saving Money bold, enlightening and provocative." -- William D. Novelli, AARP Executive Director and CEO

About the Author

Newt Gingrich is the Founder of CHT a health organization with offices in Atlanta and Washington, DC. Speaker Gingrich serves as a Senior Fellow at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, DC and as a Distinguished Visiting Fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California. He is a news and political analyst for the Fox News Channel. Speaker Gingrich also serves as honorary Chairman of the NanoBusiness Alliance. He is an Editorial Board member of the Johns Hopkins University journal; Biosecurity and Bioterrorism and is an advisory board member of the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies, the Committee for the Liberation of Iraq, and the Museum of the Rockies. A highly sought after public speaker and world-renowned strategist, Gingrich served as a Member of Congress for twenty years and as Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives from 1995-1999. Speaker Gingrich is the author of seven books including the best sellers, Contract with America and To Renew America. He resides in Virginia with his wife, Callista. He has two daughters, a granddaughter, and a grandson.. Speaker Gingrich has his own Web site - newt.org - which is continually updated with news and articles about his ideas and the issues that are important to our future.