

## **Nightmare Economy: US Hospitals Close During Raging Pandemic! The Burning Question is—Health Needs or Profits?**

Hospitals across the country continue to close down or lay off workers in the midst of a deadly pandemic. More than 170 hospitals have closed over the last 15 years.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/claryestes/2020/02/24/1-4-rural-hospitals-are-at-risk-of-closure-and-the-problem-is-getting-worse/#797622811bc0>

The Covid-19 Pandemic highlights the question of the day. Do we want *mass graves* and an economy driven by *profit* for the 1%, or a healthy society and an economy motivated by the *needs of the 99%*?

Most hospitals in the US are businesses set up to make a profit for their investors and CEO's. If they can't make a profit they close down or lay off workers and put their money somewhere else. Almost all hospitals survive in part due to the government programs of Medicare and Medicaid. Over the last 30 years politicians in the Federal and State governments have cut billions of dollars from Medicare and Medicaid, even as more people have become eligible for these programs due to increasing age and poverty. The Trump budget proposal for 2020 cuts an additional *\$2 Trillion dollars* from Medicaid and Medicare, <https://www.marketwatch.com/story/trumps-proposed-48-trillion-budget-will-see-cuts-to-medicare-medicaid-2020-02-09> and the Republican Party is still going to the Supreme Court in an attempt to destroy the Affordable Care Act(ACA), which gives health care insurance to millions. The resulting 30 years of cuts has steadily decreased revenues and profits for hospitals, so they close

down. Profits before people is the essence of this capitalist economy.

A National Public Health and Hospital System freely available to all, with universal disease prevention and treatment is the solution. Going to the hospital or medical doctor should be as free and easy as going to the Public Library. The profit system economy must be replaced by an economy based on the health needs of the people. The corporations, the banks and the rich, who have made trillions of dollars in profits over the recent years, must pay for this Public Service.

Dr. Nayvin Gordon, 4/14/20`

Dr. Gordon writes about health and politics. He may be reached at [gordonnayvin@yahoo.com](mailto:gordonnayvin@yahoo.com)