

In response to the idea that there is a right to healthcare, right-wingers often object that this entails forced labor or even slavery for doctors.

For instance, Democratic senate candidate Jon Ossoff tweeted out, "Health care is a human right." Critics respond with, "What if the doctors say no" and claims that it amounts to slavery.

The idea of healthcare guaranteed as a right by the government just means that all citizens are entitled to some level of healthcare, free at the point of service and funded through taxation, as many countries around the world have.

I think it's clear that this does not entail forced labor for doctors, and here's my argument:

(H1) If government guaranteed healthcare entails forced labor for doctors, then government guaranteed police, military, fire department, and education entails forced labor for police, military, firefighters, and public school teachers.

(H2) Government guaranteed police, military, fire department, and education does *not* entail forced labor for police, military, firefighters, and public school teachers.

(H3) So, neither does government guaranteed healthcare.

H2 should be obvious. Here in the US, we have government guaranteed police, military, fire department, and some education, and the workers providing those services are not forced laborers.

If you take a job as a fire fighter, then of course you have to do it. But this is the same as other jobs: If you take a job at McDonalds, then you have to serve the customers.

So just because something is funded through taxes and guaranteed to all citizens free at the point of service, this doesn't entail forced labor for those providing the service.