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## **New Book Aims to Make the Health Care Debate Understandable**

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## New Book Aims to Make the Health Care Debate Understandable

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BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Even with the passage of the recent bill, the debate over health care in America continues. Illinois Wesleyan University Associate Professor of Political Science Greg Shaw tackles the debate in his new book, *The Healthcare Debate* (Greenwood Press, 2010), which is due to be published in April as part of the Greenwood Press' *Historical Guides to Controversial Issues in America* series.

Shaw's book examines how recent events play into the picture of the debate over health care in America, from government and insurance involvement, and the evolution of Medicare and Medicaid, to the rise and fall of the Clinton healthcare plan, and the recent struggles toward a health-care system.

"Health care is intimate for people. As opposed to how we build interstate highways or national parks, how people get their health care is something about which they care passionately, but do not fully understand," said Shaw. "This will remain a dominant issue for the current generation, and well into the foreseeable future."

A graduate of Columbia University with a doctorate in political science, Shaw said he wanted to write a book that would bring diverse insights and arguments about the role of government and healthcare. "Much of the literature on the subject tends to be either very polemic, with finger pointing between 'hard-hearted conservatives' and 'soft-headed liberals,'" said Shaw, "or there is very specialized literature," which tends to lose the general reader in jargon or esoteric arguments. Shaw added he hopes *The Healthcare Debate* will pull together the arguments over health care into a format accessible to public and scholars alike. He approached another controversial subject in a similar fashion with his 2007 book *The Welfare Debate* (Greenwood Press).

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