

## **Abstract**

This bachelor's thesis seeks to examine the causes of failure of health care reform which was debated in the United States of America during the 103<sup>rd</sup> Congress in 1993-1994. The reform was closely connected with president Bill Clinton and its main aim was to enact a universal health insurance. A universal health insurance has no tradition in the United States. The thesis begins with a brief summary of traditional American values that resulted in establishing a very different system of health care from the one common in most European countries. Following is a brief historical overview of the development of American health care from the 19<sup>th</sup> century till the end of the 1980s, which outlines the problems leading to the need of the reform. Subsequently, the process of reform preparation and Congress debate are examined and the most important and controversial modifications of the system are unveiled. In the following chapter, reasons for the failure of the reform proposal are analysed. Those reasons are divided on the basis of their matter into two parts. A viewpoint of the GOP, the most important counter-proposals of members of Congress, opinion reversal of the public, employers' and interest groups' objections are described in the first part. Errors committed by the Clinton's administration during the preparation and implementation of the reform are summarised in the second part. The conclusion of this thesis is that the proposed reform was overly ambitious and complicated, it imposed too many obligations, and provided federal government with unusually high level of power.