

Abstract

This bachelor thesis deals with the veterans' healthcare system in the United States and its development between the years 2007 and 2014. In 2007, the prestigious American newspaper *The Washington Post* reported in a series of articles on critical conditions in the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. This scandal simultaneously revealed deep-rooted problems in the U.S. veteran's healthcare system in its entirety. Strong medialization of the events in Walter Reed naturally provoked an intense reaction from both public and the politicians. In the following years, the administrations of both President George W. Bush and President Barack Obama took several legislative steps in order to improve the veteran's healthcare system and deal with its main problems. In 2014, the question was raised again with another scandal concerning veteran's care breaking out. This affair brought the legitimacy of all previously made changes and reforms into question as well as casted doubt over the efficiency of the healthcare system as a whole. This thesis follows the essential events and individual legislative steps taken in the given time period, analyzes their importance and meaning, brings them into a broader context and juxtaposes them with the general functionality of the healthcare system and its ability to change. The role of the public opinion in this matter is also taken into account and analyzed.