**Group Project Case Descriptions**

Healthcare and Social Justice

**Access to Healthcare**

1. Work Requirements for Medicaid – The Trump Administration is paving the way for states to start programs that deny health coverage through Medicaid unless people demonstrate they work or are volunteering in their communities
2. Pre-Existing Conditions – Millions of people in the United States have a pre-existing medical condition that could make finding health coverage difficult if current protections are lifted. This number could increase as we learn more about genetic contributors to disease conditions.
3. The Cost of Genetic Medicine – Healthcare providers worry that steep out-of-pocket costs may limit who has access to current and future genetic tests for disease risks and gene therapies for inherited disorders
4. The Cost of Prescription Drugs – Millions of Americans are burdened with the high costs of drugs for treating life-threatening or chronic conditions such as multiple sclerosis, diabetes, and cancer.

**Rationing and Allocation**

1. Giving Priority to Children – Under a proposed change to the nation’s organ transplant network, younger, healthier people would receive preference for a kidney transplant over older, sicker patients
2. Putting Americans Second – Organs donated in the United States are sometimes given to foreign patients flying in from other countries, who often pay a premium
3. Rationing Drugs for the Terminally Ill – In the United States and Britain, debates continue over how much public funding should be spent on drugs and other expensive healthcare for terminally ill patients near the end of life

**Healthcare and Prison**

1. Medicaid for Ex-Inmates – Most of the state prison systems in the states that expanded Medicaid to cover ex-prisoners have failed to create adequate enrollment programs, leaving large numbers of exiting inmates, many of whom are chronically ill, without insurance
2. HIV after Prison – When people living with HIV walk out of prison, they often leave without access to healthcare that will keep them healthy in the long term
3. No Addiction Treatment in Prison – Many prisons in the United States do not offer methadone or other opioid replacement drugs to prisoners who are battling opioid addiction
4. Heart Transplant for Inmate – A prison inmate serving 14 years for robbery receives a heart transplant, renewing a debate over who deserves to get desperately needed organs

**Race and Gender**

1. Maternal Deaths – Over the last two decades, the number of American women who die each year from a pregnancy- or childbirth-related cause has increased by more than 50 percent. The risks for black women are more than three times higher than for white or Hispanic women.
2. Drug Research on Pregnant Women – For decades it’s been taboo to test medications on pregnant women, but many argue that it is unethical not to include women in research.
3. Heart Attack Treatment for Women – Studies show that women receive worse care after a heart attack, are more likely to be misdiagnosed, and that they are more likely to survive their heart attack if treated by a female doctor.

**Immigration**

1. Immigrant Detention Centers – Experts worry that the White House’s plan to indefinitely detain immigrant families threatens the care of young children. A report finds that multiple deaths of immigrant adults resulted from inadequate medical care in times of need.
2. Free Healthcare for Illegal Immigrants – A proposal in California would make it the first state to offer full health coverage to undocumented adults

**LGBT Issues**

1. Gender-Affirming Healthcare – Transgender individuals who seek medical care to transition are caught in a cycle of having to prove they are who they say they are to meet criteria set by physicians, insurance companies, and lawmakers.
2. LGBT Health Disparities – LGBT people experience a range of social, economic, and medical disparities that jeopardize their long-term health.
3. Transgender Children – The American Academy of Pediatrics issues a statement urging a model of gender-affirmative care that is oriented towards understanding and appreciating the youth’s gender experience. The guidelines oppose a “watchful waiting” approach and attempts to dissuade youth from exhibiting gender-diverse expressions.

**Old Age and Disability**

1. Universal Home Care – A ballot initiative in Maine would provide home-based assistance to people with disabilities and senior citizens, regardless of income. The free home care would be funded by a new income tax.
2. Life-Extension – Using science to allow people to live far longer than they naturally do may one day be possible. Critics argue that life-extension technology would increase inequalities between the rich and the poor, and that it is not the best, most just use of medical resources.
3. Evicted from Assisted Living – Assisted living facilities are evicting residents who have grown older and frail, essentially saying that “we can’t take care of you any longer.”