

Every industrial nation in the world guarantees their citizens access to essential health care services, every country, that is, except the United States. Indeed, one in eight Americans -- a shocking 45 million people—a majority of them in working families, do not have any health insurance. In her book, *One Nation, Uninsured: Why the US Has No National Health Insurance*, Professor Jill Quadagno describes our nation's failure to address the health care needs of its citizens. Ranging across the twentieth century, she shows how each attempt to enact national health insurance was met with fierce attacks by powerful stakeholders who mobilized their considerable resources to keep the financing of health care out of the government's hands. In the first half of the twentieth century, physicians led the anti-reform coalition, fearful that government entry would mean government control of medical practice. Doctors lobbied legislators, influenced elections by giving large campaign contributions to sympathetic candidates and organized "grassroots" protests with other like-minded groups to defeat reform. Only with Medicare and Medicaid – coverage for the very poor and the old - did they grudgingly relinquish control. Yet even as Medicare succeeded and physicians receded from the battle's front lines, the insurance industry assumed a leading role against reform. Extending from the Progressive Era to the Clinton years, *One Nation, Uninsured* demonstrates how the seemingly arcane subject of health care policy has been a prism reflecting the grand events of twentieth century - the Red Scare of the 1910s, the trade union movement in the 1930s, McCarthyism in the 1940s, the civil rights movement in the 1950s, Lyndon Johnson's Great Society in the 1960s, the impeachment of President Nixon in the 1970s, the mobilization of senior citizens in the 1980s, and the downing of the Black Hawks in Somalia in the 1990s.

Professor Quadagno has recently appeared on Ira Flatow's Science Friday, the Leonard Lopate Show on WNYC and Barry Lynn's Culture Shocks. Her book has also been featured in Paul Krugman's op-ed article in the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post* which calls her a "richly constructed history, book "fresh and engaging."