

— Original Message —

From: Kris Murthy

To: info@ap.org

Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2009 6:41 AM

Subject: exclusive regarding health care - an amazing experience - from a US citizen abroad

Dear Associated Press,

I felt this would be the best way to reach out to President and Congress of the United States by citing what happened with my health treatment during my stay in India recently.

I am a US citizen and this incident happend during my stay in Bangalore, India.

I developed some chest pain on the night of 23rd September 2009 at 8.30 PM and had some continued pain at around 10.30 PM in Bangalore, India. After some initial tests by a general physician at a nearby nursing home, I was asked to go to JAYADEVA HOSPITAL, a specialized and renowned cardiac hospital. This was around 11.30 PM local time.

Upon my arrival at Jayadeva Hospital emergency, 2 specialist cardiologists, a few nurses and support staff were attending to about 5 patients including myself. They took my vitals, an ECG, blood test and an EKG, kept me under observation for about an hour, and found everything was okay and was not heart related. And before releasing me, they took one more ECG to doubly make sure I was perfectly fine. And after all this and just one hour at the emergency ward, I was on my way back.

There are four amazing points to note here:

- They charged me a total of Indian Rupees 92 (approximately US\$ 2) for the treatment I received at the hospital. That was the total bill!!!!!!!
- The doctors and the staff took excellent care and made me feel extraordinarily comfortable through the process, and was treated by real cardiologists and not physician assistants.
- And this sensational hospital with one of the best facilities in the world makes a profit of over million dollars a year in spite of charging extremely nominal by any world standards.
- There was absolutely no issues of nationality, affordability, race, religion or politics in the policies of this wonderful hospital and we were all treated as one human race.

So, my dear Congressmen, Senators, and lawmakers in the United States, please wake up, see what can be done to improve our health care and be able to take care of our citizens. It would really be a shame if we can't take care of 300 million americans being one of the greatest nations in the world... while another great nation and the largest democracy in the world India can take care of a billion people with lesser resources.

I hope this experience of mine is shared amongst my fellow citizens and lawmakers back in the United States, for us to understand that there are alternate ways to deal with pressing major national issues, especially health care. Although I am a republican all my life, I sincerely urge all of us to set our differences aside and look for a major health care reform.

Best regards,

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cc: Honorable President Barrack Obama
The White House