The health care situation is a crisis of leadership. Counting on Washington to solve it is not a strategy. Party politics get in the way of smart policies.

While Congress meets, healthcare companies raise prices at will, just because they can. Procedures, drugs, premiums, services. Medicare needs to negotiate prices.

Bob Schieffer: Gary West: All healthcare companies resemble cartels and especially pharmaceuticals. What did you do to reduce the size of government? This is not how it is going to go! It's not about averages.

Andy Slavitt: Affordable health care is an essential element of preserving a middle class. Inequality: Maternal mortality in African-Americans is worse than even undeveloped countries.

Three solutions:
- Price transparency
- Fee-for-service
- Value

Three health: We spend more than anyone, but are not any healthier for it. We need to think like Americans, not Democrats or Republicans. Maybe it can be solved over a Kentucky bourbon.

We need to be both aggressive and creative.

Nancy Pelosi: Shame on us if we don't act on this. The cost of not insuring everybody is higher. We needed help to make sure this wouldn't bankrupt us.

John Kasich: This is a moral issue, not one that can be allowed to get dominated by special interests.

Steve Beshear: We will oppose everything, until it becomes inevitable.

This is why we need public sentiment.

Politics: In this country, power flows up. Competition in this space is focused on quantity and not quality.
John Bardis

We can be counted on to do the right thing, after every other option has been exhausted.

Let's make sure this doesn't come true.

We get less for our healthcare dollar than anywhere else.

How can 4% of the world population use up 40% of the world's healthcare?

The amount of people we lose to medical error is equal to 700 passenger jets every year.

But we can't do this in a vacuum.

Executives need to listen to their benefits managers.

The cost is designed to create cost.

If cost data was public, a lot of decisions would be made differently.

Private & public partnerships.

Centers of excellence.

If cost data was public, a lot of decisions would be made differently.

Time is running out on this, especially regarding Medicare.

Hospital charges are unrelated to this.

Health care costs correlate to economic growth.

Coupons are good for consumers but they just hide the real costs.

Quality

Costs are the tapeworm on American business.

To control costs in the long term we need to focus on quality.