



W.L. Winters Jr., M.D.

---

## HEALTH CARE REFORM: A POETICAL PLEA

William L. Winters Jr., M.D.

*Methodist DeBakey Heart & Vascular Center, Houston, Texas*

---

Many people decreed it to be  
That health care as anyone could see  
Needed reforming  
A sort of reborning  
To avoid a financial melee.

Major problems were quite visible  
That made most people miserable  
Like cost and access  
Tricky insurance and malpractice  
But each issue quite addressable.

Then there's the matter of waste  
Not curable just by cut and paste  
So look for the source  
Not obvious of course  
That may require patience not  
haste.

Because some politicians just don't  
get it  
Their constituents to their great  
credit  
Rose up en masse  
Like weeds in the grass  
To head off a worsening debit.

So as more people saw through it all  
And tea parties slowed it to a stall  
Let's think this thing through  
So as not to fall into  
An uncontrolled financial freefall.

Please look at the problems out there  
Try to show us you really do care  
Take it step by step  
With an eye on the debt  
To find benefits that we all may  
share.

Rather than shake our foundations  
Out of sheer and utter frustrations  
Take a look at the parts  
Readjust it with smarts  
Then stand back to laud the creation.

With that thought in mind  
Craft reforms of the kind  
That look at the mix  
To accomplish a fix  
To solve this unending old bind.

As a doctor, I want you to know  
I believe our profession would show  
More trust in the end  
If politicians would bend  
And think like that sleuth, Hercule  
Poirot.

He achieved all manner of fame  
By listening to all sides of the game  
Then melding the ideas  
For everyone to see as  
A solution that all can acclaim.

So I think we all would agree  
That such health care reform should be  
An open forum for all  
Young, old, short, and tall  
And quite transparent for all to see.

It's not necessary for all to agree  
Expect different opinions to be  
Stumbling blocks for some  
A trial to overcome  
In route to the game-winning tee.

I believe the best leaders today  
Are those with attitudes that say  
We'll do it somehow  
With grace and a bow  
The consensus we'll hail with  
hooray!

Having said all this with vigor and  
vim  
Midst a strong wish for us all to win  
To the parties in power  
No more of those glowers  
We will see if you sink or you swim.

If swimming were to happen  
indeed  
We'd be more than happy to read  
That patients come first  
Best news, not the worst  
That our leaders did, in fact, take  
the lead.

It just goes to show you all  
Common sense wins over a brawl  
So it comes as a plea  
From my colleagues and me  
Make it work for the very long haul.