

# TTIP Threat to UK Health Care.

**When the NHS was set up in the aftermath of the Second World War  
Aneurin Bevan warned that:-**

**“The NHS will last as long as there are folk left with faith to fight for it”  
Are you up for the fight?**

Did you know that a serious threat to the NHS is on the horizon. The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (**TTIP**), which is being pushed by large corporations, is now being negotiated between the European Union and the US. If this goes ahead, it will effectively prevent governments from bringing those parts of the NHS that have already been opened up to private corporations back into the not for profit public sector as private companies could sue our government under Investor State Dispute Settlement agreements (**ISDS**) for loss of profit. The threat of ISDS will also deter governments from introducing future legislation that puts public health before private company profit. The risk of this happening can be avoided if government simply exempts the NHS from TTIP and ISDS negotiations but so far they are not willing to do this. Therefore it is important for citizens to exert pressure on local councillors, MPs and MEPs to bring this about.

The large multinational pharmaceutical companies "Big Pharma" are also pushing to extend their patent rights. If successful this would increase the cost of drugs here and across the world and it would hamper the supply of cheaper generic drugs. These companies always say they need this money to develop new drugs but they spend far more on marketing than on basic research.

Whatever happens, we and our government have to decide what we want from the NHS and how much we are willing to pay for it. The best way to pay for NHS services, free at the point of delivery, is to do it by a fair, direct and progressive taxation system. Illness and infectious diseases do not respect the size of your wallet and the NHS must be true to its founding mothers and fathers. You also have an obligation to use the NHS responsibly for the purpose it was designed for.

## **What can you do?**

- 1. Sign the petitions and letters that go to MPs, MEPs and local councillors.**
- 2. Look at what TTIP means to you check out the internet. 38 degrees, Global Justice Now, stop-ttip.org and other groups campaigning about TTIP. Join the 2.4 million EU citizens who have already put pressure on the EU Commission**
- 3. Pass this newsletter on to your friends and family**

**Say NO to the NHS Sell Off and ask local politicians, your MP and MEPs  
to support this issue contact them at:- [www.writetothem.com](http://www.writetothem.com)**

# The NHS is being sold off under our noses.

Margaret Thatcher and John Major broke up and sold our publicly owned rail, gas, water and electricity services and then started to open up the NHS to private sector providers. Unfortunately this process was not reversed by succeeding governments. In 2012 the coalition government passed the Health and Social Care Act, this speeded up the fragmentation and contracting out of NHS services resulting in a massive increase in administrative costs and the NHS budget now has an additional function. As well as providing health care free at the point of delivery it is now providing an **ever increasing amount of profit for private companies.**

**All of which leaves less money available for direct point of delivery health care.**

Many of the politicians who voted for the Health and Social Care act have direct links to the private companies who are now benefiting financially from these changes. These companies, some of whom are large global corporations with no allegiance to this or any other country, have a responsibility to maximise shareholder profit year on year. The only way they do this is by taking out more than they put in, they are not philanthropic organisations. In the short term they can improve efficiency, after that they will cut staff costs, initially by reducing wages and conditions, then they will reduce staff numbers. This inevitably reduces the quality of service provide at the point of delivery. Eventually they will cut the service that is provided, and when they can't satisfy the greed of their shareholders they will walk away as seen with the Southern Cross Care Home fiasco, and Hinchingsbrooke Hospital the first hospital to be run by a private company - Circle Health; the resulting mess had to be sorted out by the state. Yet another example where tax payers money has been used to subsidise private profit!

If this private procurement process is not halted and reversed we will eventually end up with an insurance based US style health care system based on ability to pay rather than on patient need. In the US, health care bills are a major factor leading to household bankruptcy while many people cannot afford adequate insurance especially for chronic diseases such as cancer and diabetes. Fraud occurs on a massive scale, with patients being given and charged for tests they don't need, and large multinational drug companies such as Pfizer and Glaxo Smith Kline being fined billions of dollars for selling drugs for the treatment of diseases they are not approved for. For all of its problems our NHS is far more efficient in the use of resources than the US health care system but it is under serious threat due to the Health and Social Care Act and the involvement of private corporate providers.

**If you are concerned about what is happening you need to join the:-**



**Useful resources:-**

<http://www.keepournhspublic.com>

[www.stop-ttip.org](http://www.stop-ttip.org)

NHS For Sale: Myths, Lies and Deception 2015. By Davis, Lister & Wrigley

NHS SOS: How the NHS Was Betrayed - and How We Can Save It 2013. By Tallis & Davis

The End of the NHS due 2016. By Pollock