

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO KINDNESS?

Larry Dossey



PII: S1550-8307(17)30330-0  
DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.explore.2017.09.002>  
Reference: JSCH2233

To appear in: *Explore: The Journal of Science and Healing*

Cite this article as: Larry Dossey, WHATEVER HAPPENED TO KINDNESS?,  
*Explore: The Journal of Science and Healing*,  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.explore.2017.09.002>

This is a PDF file of an unedited manuscript that has been accepted for publication. As a service to our customers we are providing this early version of the manuscript. The manuscript will undergo copyediting, typesetting, and review of the resulting galley proof before it is published in its final citable form. Please note that during the production process errors may be discovered which could affect the content, and all legal disclaimers that apply to the journal pertain.

Section Head: EXPLORATIONS

## ***WHATEVER HAPPENED TO KINDNESS?***

People often ask me what is the most effective technique for transforming their life. It is a little embarrassing that after years and years of research and experimentation, I have to say that the best answer is — just be a little kinder.<sup>1</sup>

~ Aldous Huxley

•

My religion is simple. My religion is kindness.

~ H. H. the 14th Dalai Lama

Basic kindness — the quality of being friendly, generous, considerate, empathic, compassionate — is under attack in healthcare.

As I write in early July 2017, the American Medical Association has just sent a letter to the leaders of the US Senate that contains the following statement:

“Medicine has long operated under the precept of *Primum non nocere*, or ‘first, do no harm.’ The draft legislation violates that standard on many levels.” The letter was sent to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Kentucky) and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-New York). At issue is the Senate bill called the Better Care Reconciliation Act (BCRA), which strives to abolish and replace the Affordable Care Act (ACA) or Obamacare, which Republicans have voted to repeal more than 50 times during the past few years. To many physicians, the proposed BCRA requires not only that they violate their professional oath, it also appears to be a blueprint for a medical apocalypse — a tragic repudiation of empathy, compassion, and kindness toward those in need.

The reasons for concern are straightforward. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office has determined that around 22 million Americans will lose their healthcare coverage over the next decade if the Senate bill is passed, in order to free up money for tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans.<sup>2</sup> The bill would permit individual states to make sweeping changes to insurance market rules, allowing insurers to offer skimpy plans with no basic set of guaranteed benefits, meaning that treatments and medicines for individuals with high-cost ailments would likely be denied. People with pre-existing conditions would probably be placed in high-risk

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/8588542>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/8588542>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)