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*Review*

**Making A Killing: HMOs and the Threat to Your Health**

**By Jamie Court (Editor) and Francis Smith,**

**with a forward by Ralph Nader**

**Common Courage Press.**

**ISBN 1-56751-168-6**

**224 Pages. \$29.95 Hardcover; \$16.95 Paperback**

**Reviewed by Kellia Ramares**

Online Journal Associate Editor

August 31, 2000—This book is a must-read for anyone who might get sick. Consumer advocate Jamie Court and attorney Francis Smith interviewed more than 1,000 patients across the nation in researching this expose of HMOs. Their conclusions: HMOs profit by denying care and force doctors to choose between their patients' best interests and their own ability to make a living. And because of a giant loophole in federal law (ERISA) that immunizes them from lawsuits, HMOs get away with killing and maiming people.

Making A Killing includes ideas for HMO reform and a Patient's Self-Defense Kit, which shows us how to fight for the care we need. People with HMO horror stories can send them to <http://www.makingakilling.org> for possible inclusion in a planned second edition.

---Kellia Ramares

This review was originally published in the May, 2000 issue of The Progressive.

Note: A Patient's Self Defense Kit is available for free download at <http://www.makingakilling.org>.

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