

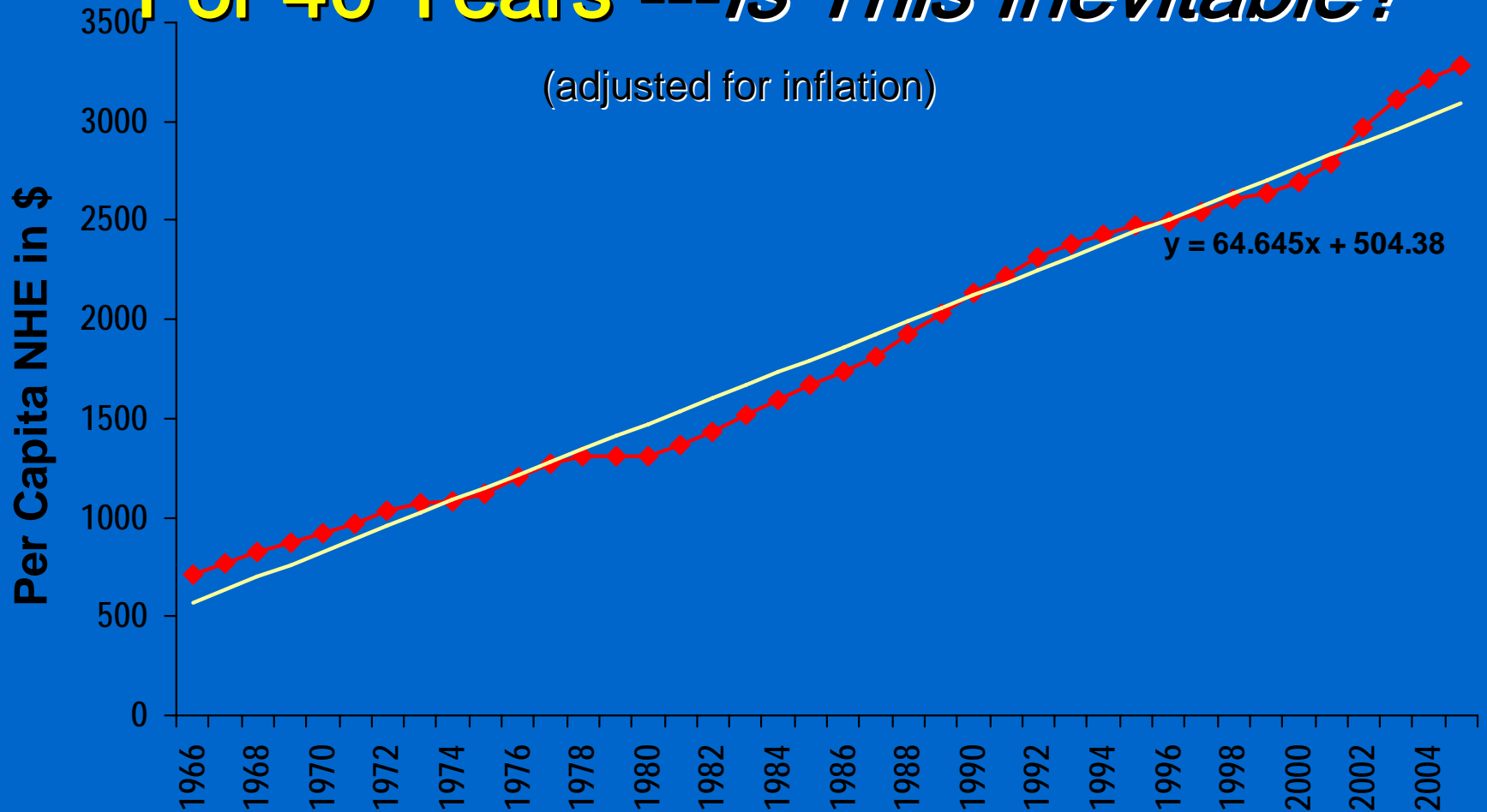
What The U.S. Must Do To Slow Growth In Spending and Prevent a “Meltdown” of The Healthcare System?

Stuart H. Altman

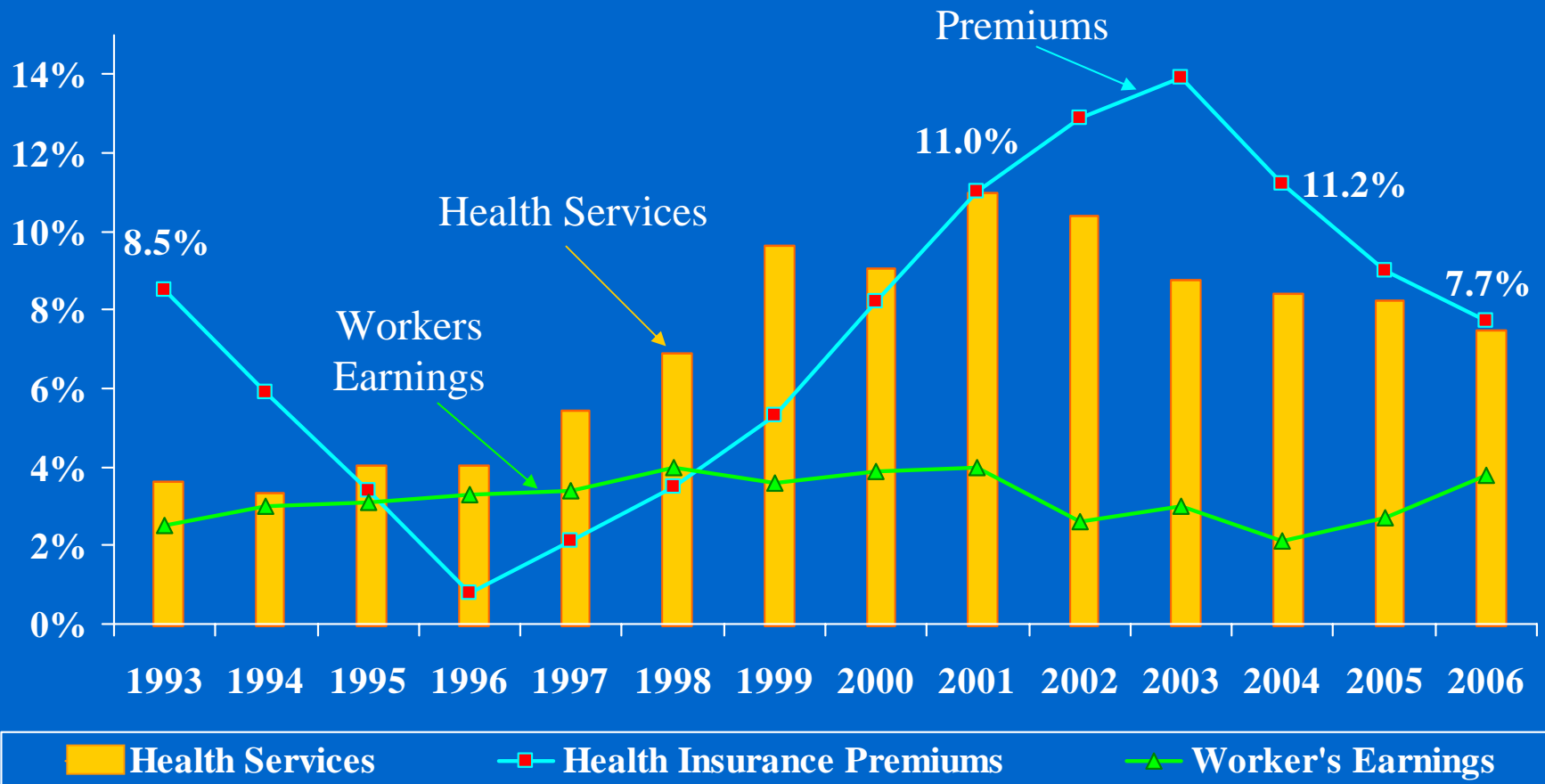
*Dean and Chaikin Professor of National Health Policy
The Heller School for Social Policy and Management
Brandeis University*

Per Capita Growth In Health Expenditures

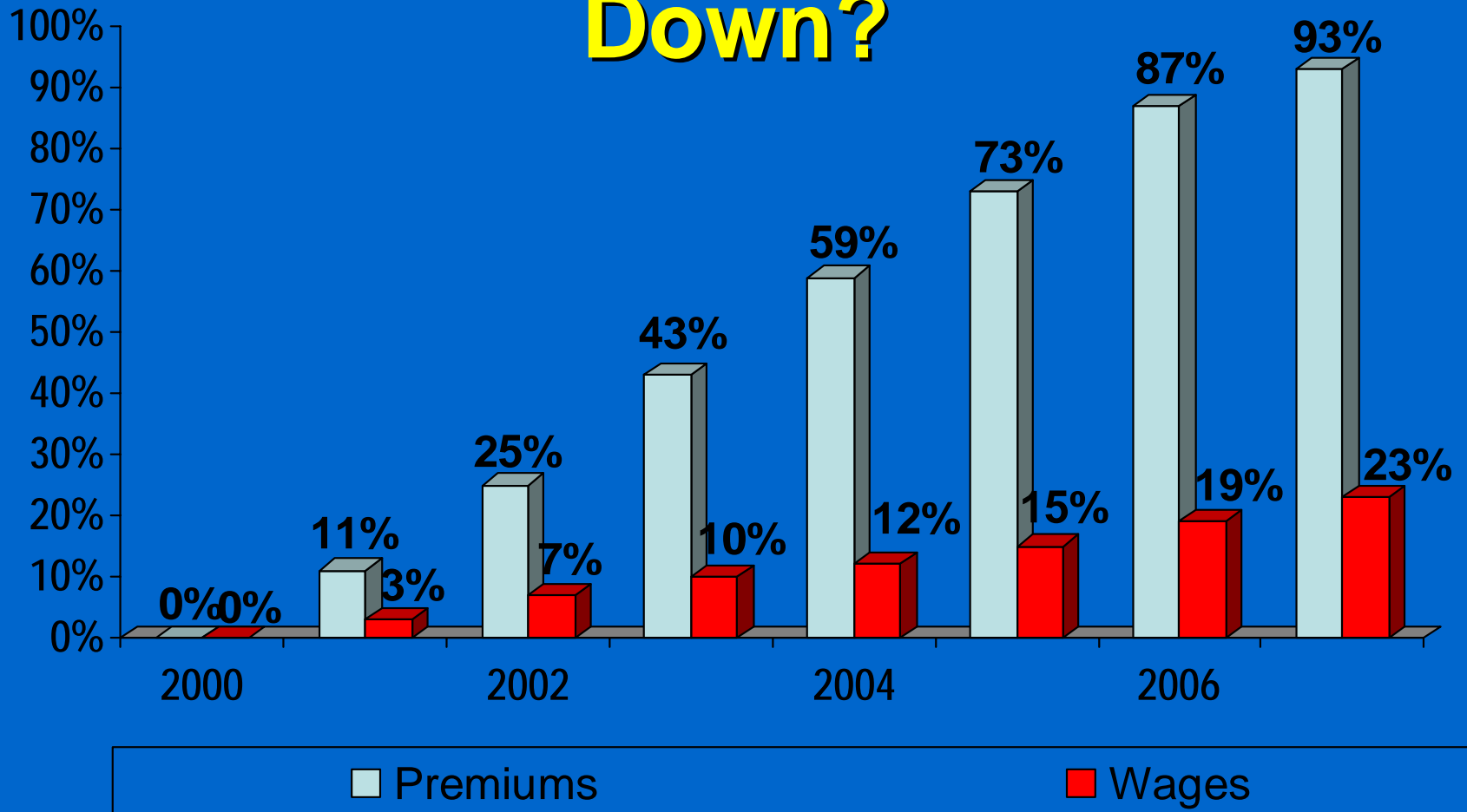
Has Been Growing at 2% Above Inflation
For 40 Years --- *Is This Inevitable?*



Health Insurance Premium Growth Now Equals Underlying Health Expenses --- Both Are Significantly Higher Than Wage Growth?



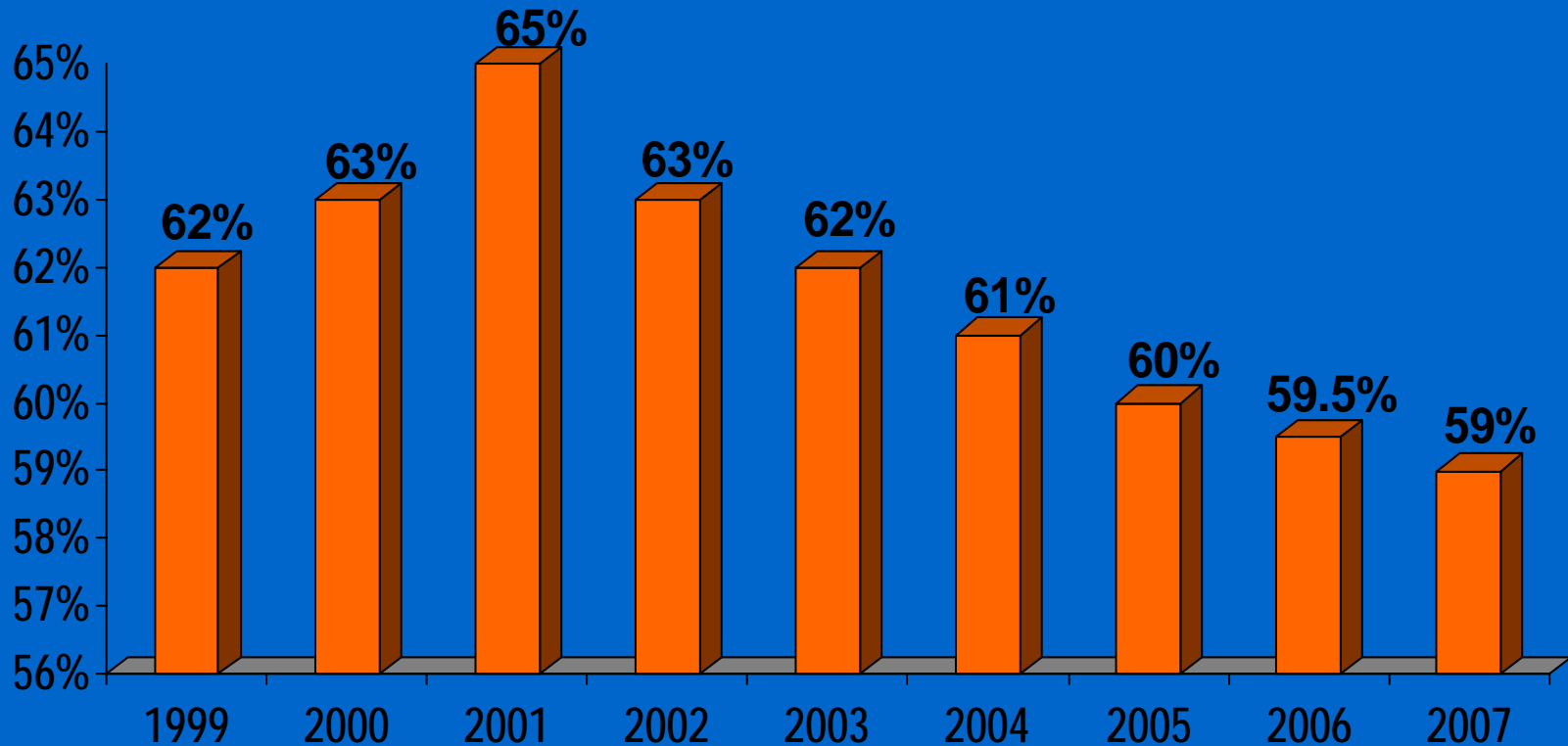
How Much Larger Can Gap Between Premium and Wage Growth Before System Melts Down?



**Not Surprising--- Much Faster
Growth In Premiums Is Leading
To A Decline In Percentage of
Workers Covered By Employer
Based Coverage and an Increase
in the Uninsured!**

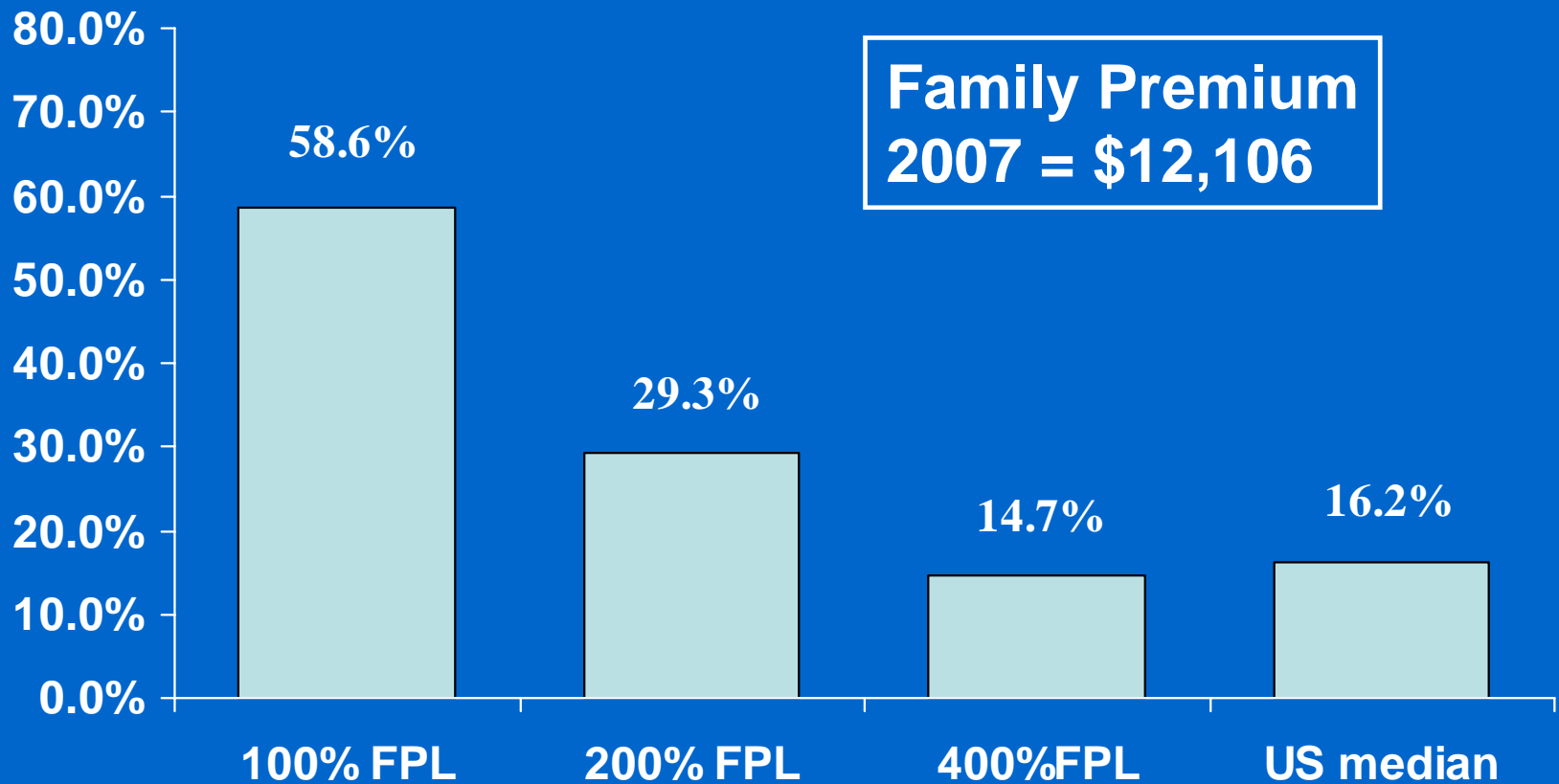
Has The Meltdown Begun???

Percentage of Workers Covered By Employer Based Insurance



2007 Health Premium as Percentage of Family Income

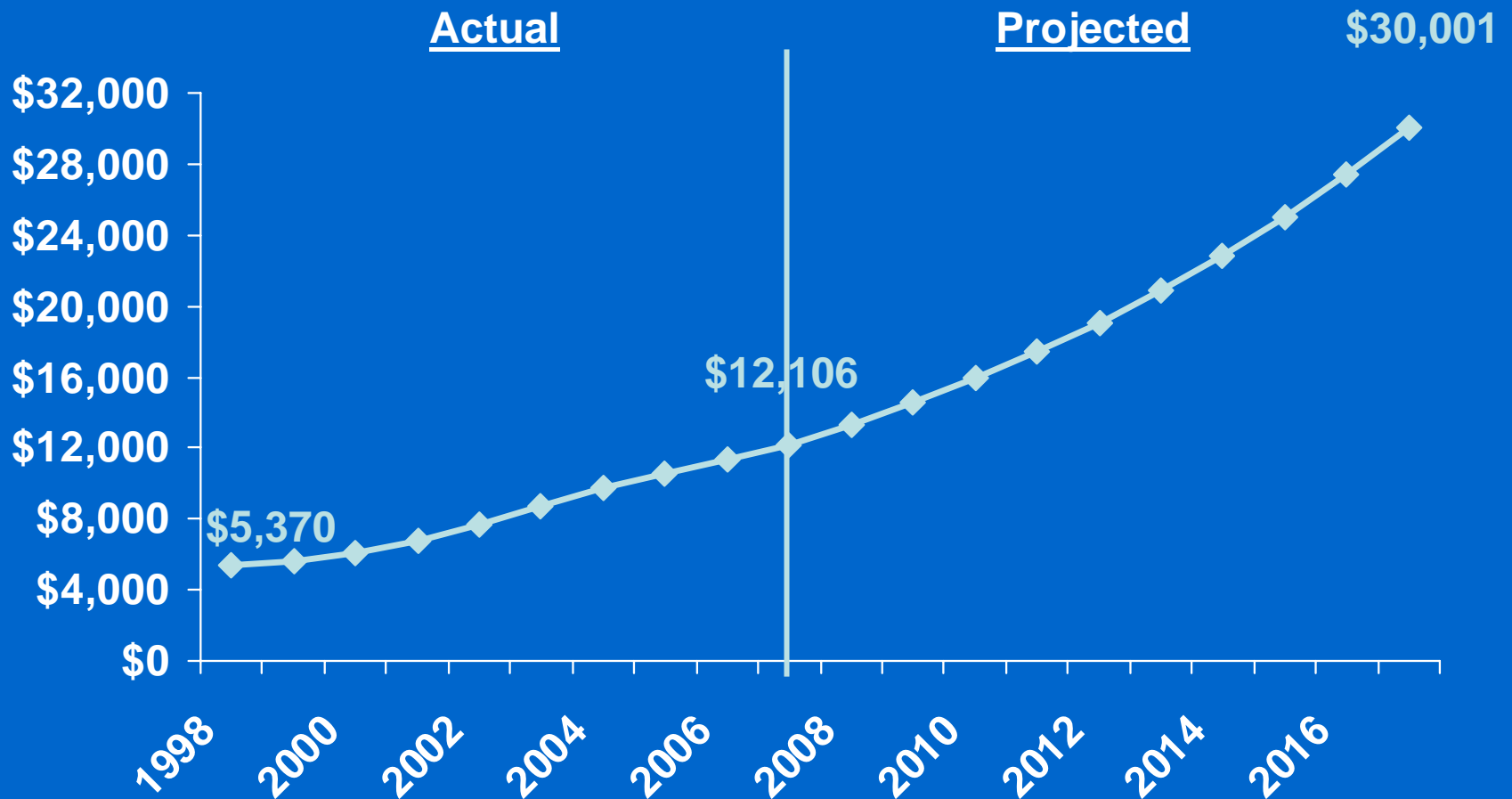
Income Based on Family of Four



What Would Happen if Wage
Growth and Premium Growth
Stayed Constant for the next
10Years?

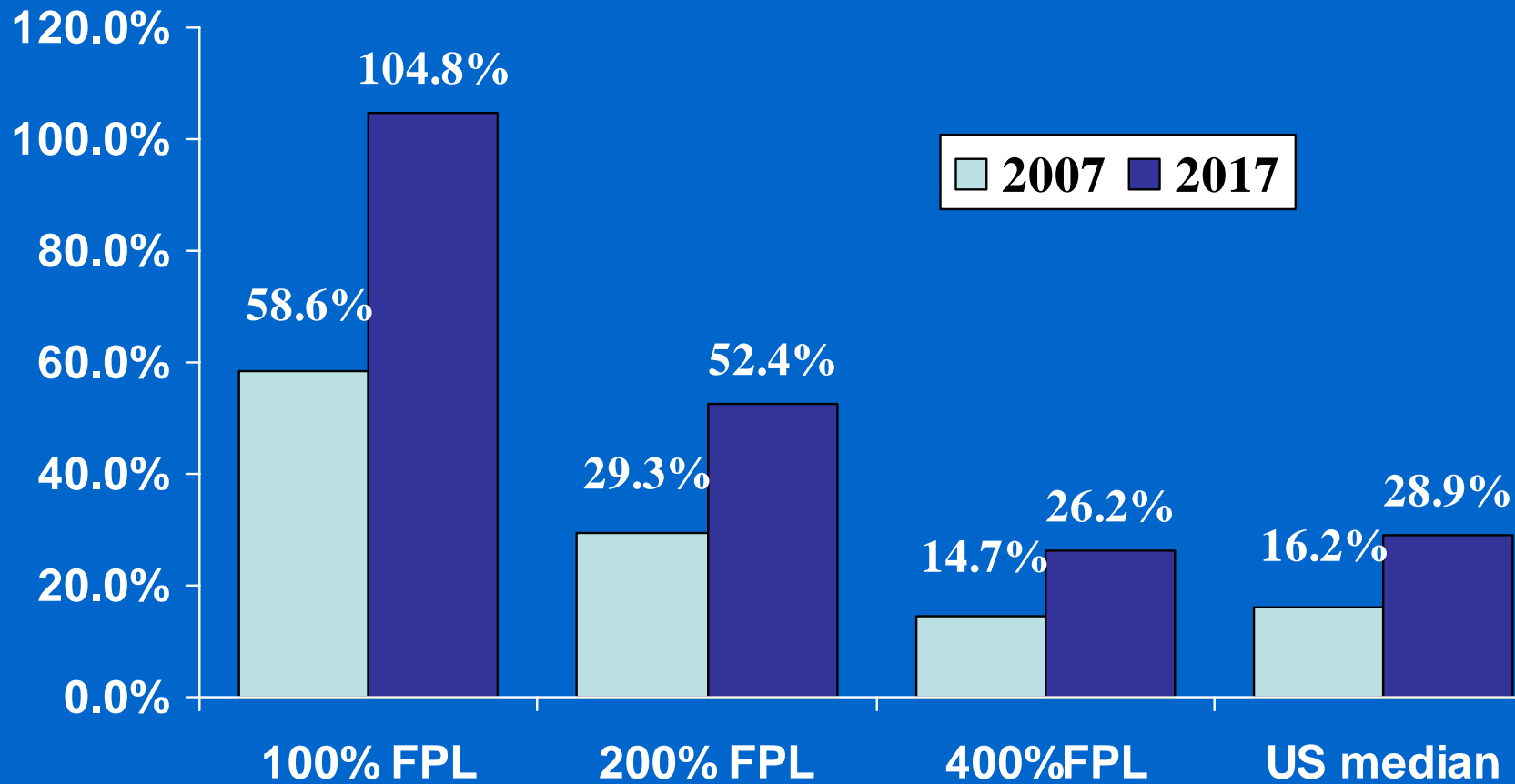
Growth in Family Premium

Projection Based on Historical Annual Growth of 9.5%



Source: Kaiser Family Foundation and author's calculations.

Health Insurance Premium as Percentage of Family Income



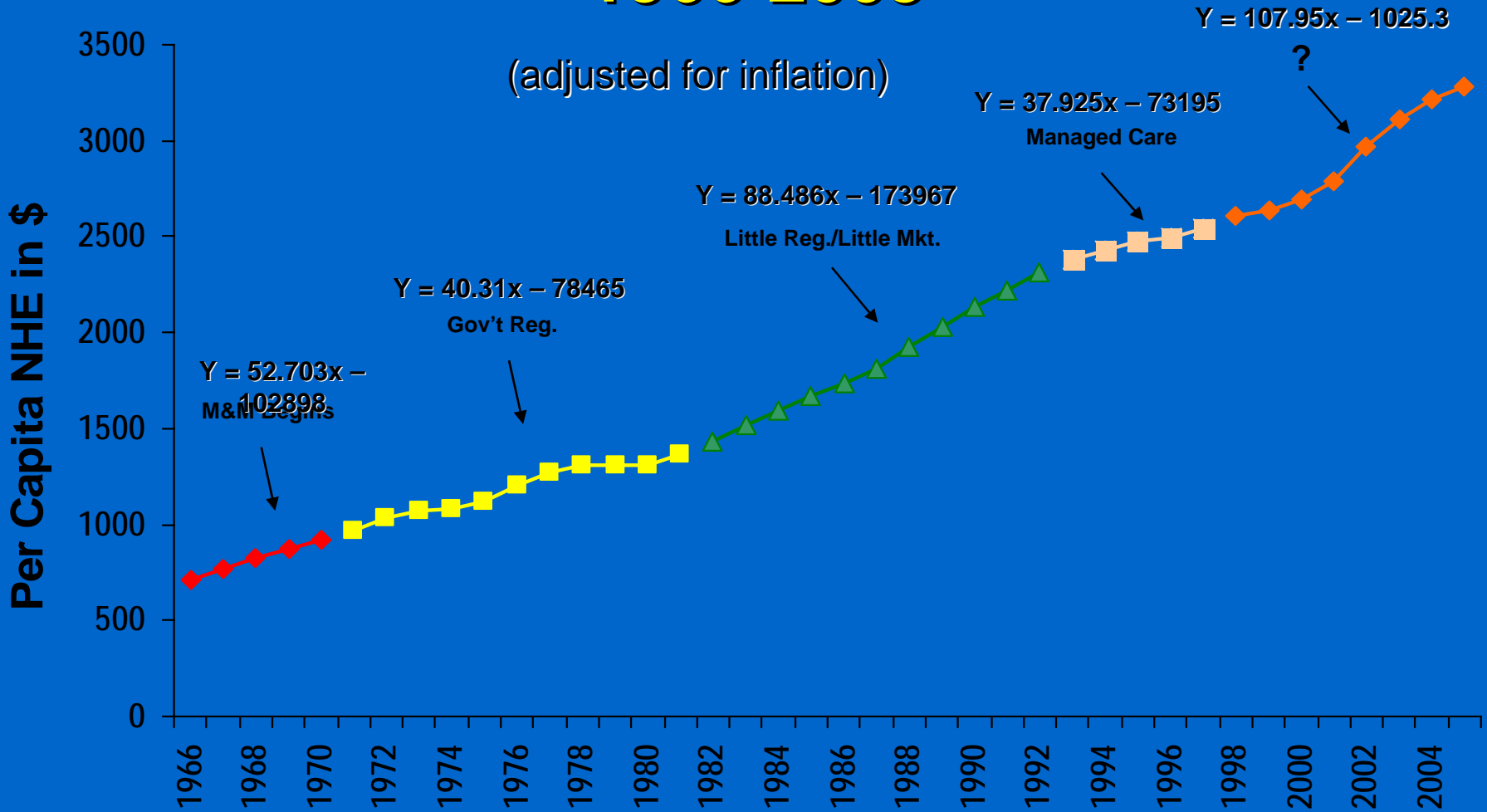
Source: Calculations based on data from Kaiser Family Foundation and US Census Bureau.

Limiting Growth in Healthcare
Spending Is Not Easy!

But We Were More Successful In
Previous Decades!

Why?

Growth In Per Capita National Health Expenditure 1966-2005



Differences in spending: largely due to differences in volume

	Cedars Sinai	Saint Elizabeth's	MGH	Baystate	Cooley Dickinson	Cleveland Clinic
Part B spending*	\$19,427	\$12,292	\$10,316	\$9,519	\$8,840	\$6,490
Hospital days	23.1	18.8	17.7	11.7	12.1	14.6
Physician visits	71.3	43.3	42.0	32.4	26.2	32.1
Primary care visits	16.1	25.4	19.3	16.1	15.0	12.9
Medical specialist visits	51.0	14.5	19.5	12.3	8.0	15.0

**last two years of life, all other measures are during last six months of life*

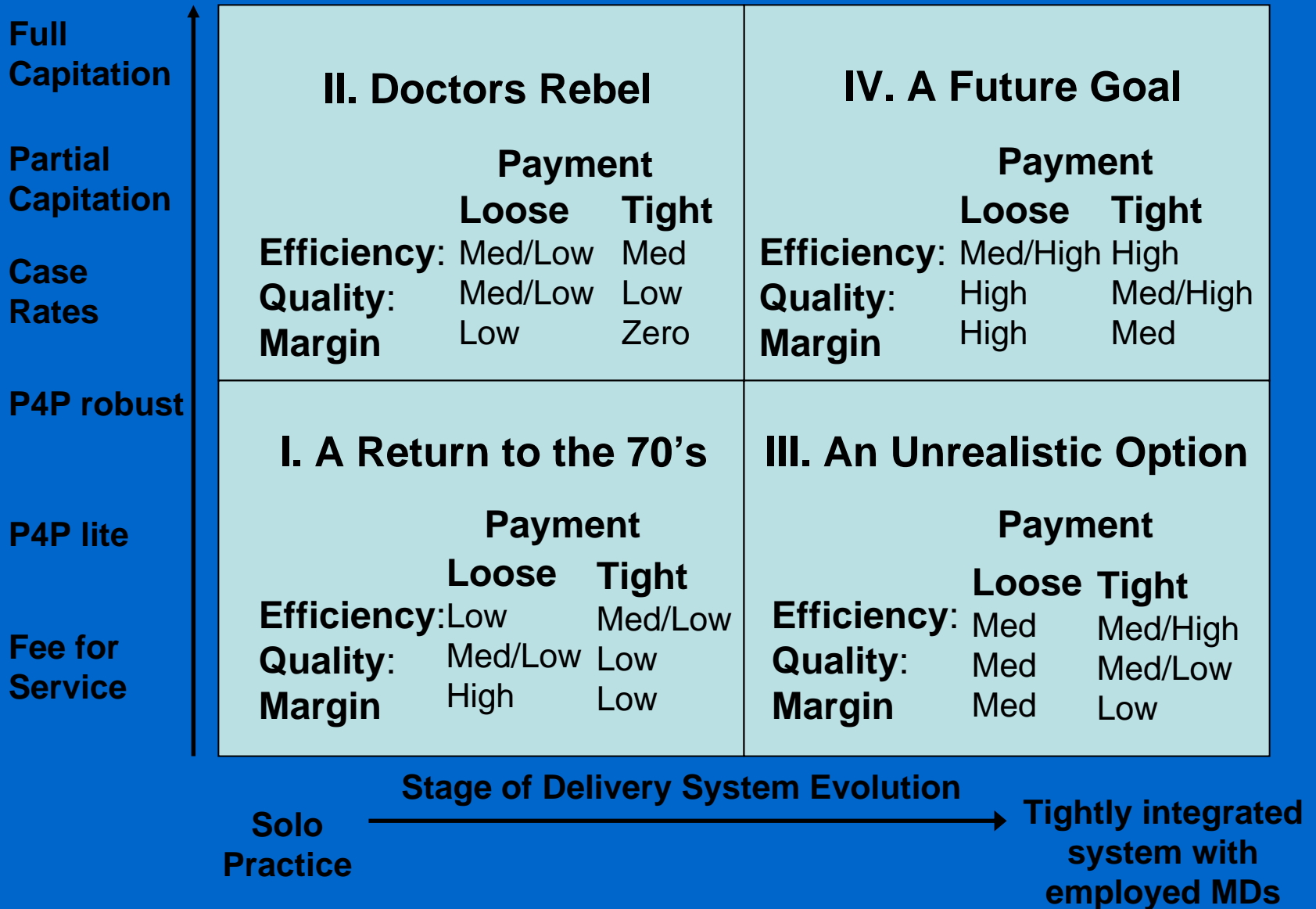
Commonwealth Fund --- **“Framework for a High Performance Health System”**

*Need to Deliver Care Through
Healthcare Systems That Emphasize
Coordination and Integration*

Authors of The Commonwealth Fund Report Believe ---

“Improved safety and quality envision cooperative behavior between hospitals and physicians so as to make optimum use of expanded health IT, hospital P4P and chronic care management for the frail elderly and patients with severe chronic conditions”

Payment and Delivery System Options



**Any Significant Restructuring of
Healthcare Delivery System Will
Require Reimbursement
Systems That Supports Such
Behavior----**

**Fee-for-Service System Needs
to be Modified or Abandoned!**

Current Fee-for-Service Payment
System Encourages Aggressive
Competition Not Collaboration
Between Hospitals and
Physicians

Why Competition Between Hospitals and Physicians Can Be Wasteful and Reduce The Quality of Care

- Major source of waste lies in unwarranted intensity of hospital and physician services particularly for patients in their last months of life
- Pattern of hospitals and physicians competing with each other to expand provision of selected specialty services such as imaging and certain tests and procedures, reflect distortions in pricing structures

Options For Changing Payment System

- **Bundled or Case Payments**
- **Significant Pay-for-Performance Add-On or Penalties**
- **Value-Based Payments**
- **Permit Wider Use of “Gain-sharing” Between Hospitals and Doctors**

Aligning Incentives Between Hospitals and Doctors

- The Importance of a Value-Based Payment System---
 - Allows Hospitals to Be Rewarded for More Appropriate and Cost Effective Care
 - Permits Hospitals to Share With Physicians The Benefits of Higher Valued Care
- Need Transparency and Elimination of Conflicts of Interest