

Resolution For A Universal Publicly Funded National Health Program

WHEREAS, Over \$2 trillion (\$2,000,000,000,000) is spent on health care in the U.S. each year, yet over 46 million of our people lack health care coverage, and many millions more have inadequate coverage; and

WHEREAS, Each year more than 18,000 people die because they do not have health insurance; and

WHEREAS, The United States is the only industrialized nation without a streamlined single national financing system for health care; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. pays 50 percent more of our Gross Domestic Product on health care than nations with national health care programs, yet according to the World Health Organization, ranks a mere 37th in the world in quality of health care; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 25% of every health care dollar spent in the U.S. goes to private health care administration compared to just 3% for Medicare. That means over \$400 billion each year is spent on paperwork and cost add-ons charged by private health care administrators, primarily to create and manage regulations to screen out high risk patients; and

WHEREAS, two bills pending in Congress - HR 1200, The American Health Security Act and HR 676, The United States National Health Insurance Act - would ensure that every person in the United States has comprehensive health insurance and would actually save hundreds of billions of dollars on unnecessary duplication, administrative costs and insurance company profits; and

WHEREAS, Corporations have repeatedly claimed that the cost of providing health care to U.S. workers requires that products and services produced here must be sold at higher prices than what foreign corporations charge, and that these higher prices render the U.S. non-competitive. Under HR 1200 and HR 676 most businesses in the U.S. would pay much less for employee health care coverage, thus alleviating that problem; and

WHEREAS, HR 1200 and HR 676 would provide equal access to all necessary medical care regardless of the income level of individuals/families; and

WHEREAS, Under HR 1200 and HR 676 patients would be free to choose their own private doctors and hospitals; and

WHEREAS, HR 1200 and HR 676 would cover hospitalization and office visits, prescription drugs, dental care, vision care, home health care, nursing home care, long term care, mental health care and rehabilitation. HR 1200 and HR 676 would remain in place even if one lost a job or retired; and

WHEREAS, HR 1200 and HR 676 prohibit patients being charged deductibles and co-payments; and

WHEREAS, under HR 1200 and HR 676 the financing of the national health program would be based on combinations of employer and self-employment taxes, individual taxes, existing sources of federal government revenues for health care and other taxes, and most employers and individuals would pay less for health care coverage than they currently do; and

WHEREAS, HR 1200 and HR 676 would provide health care coverage equal to or better than that of each member of Congress; and

WHEREAS, HR 1200 and HR 676 adopt different approaches to the design of a national health program, but both are based on universal coverage and taxpayer-funded financing;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Members of Congress are hereby instructed to support both HR 1200 and HR 676 and to design and enact a national health program consistent with the principles of universal publicly funded health care coverage.

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