

Resolution Proposed for the 34th District Democrats, September, 2009
Urging Support for a Strong, National Public Insurance Option Now
Submitted by: Lisa Plymate, M.D., to the 34th District Democrats, August 19, 2009

WHEREAS our National Democratic Platform of 2008: Renewing America's Promise, states: "We believe that covering all is not just a moral imperative, but is necessary to making our health system workable and affordable....Families and individuals should have the option of keeping the coverage they have or choosing from a wide array of health insurance plans, including many private health insurance options and a public plan;"

WHEREAS candidate Barack Obama campaigned for a public option when we selected him as our Democratic nominee and elected him President;

WHEREAS the President stated on July 18, 2009 that "Any plan I sign must have an insurance exchange...with a variety of plans including a public option...to increase competition and keep insurance companies honest";

WHEREAS the Democrats have majorities in both the House and the Senate of the U.S. Congress;

WHEREAS "co-operatives," an alternative to a public option currently under consideration by the Senate Finance committee, have never been tested as a model in the proposed format, and there is no evidence that they would save costs, work efficiently, or provide quality care;

WHEREAS there is evidence that federally-funded and run programs such as the V.A. system and Medicare provide quality care in an efficient manner; and

WHEREAS the need for significant health care reform is the #1 domestic priority of the American people, above and beyond any need for bipartisan compromise;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the King County, WA 34th Legislative District urges President Obama to fight hard for the public option he campaigned for and that the American people want;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the 34th LD our U.S. Senators and Representatives to support – by both advocating for and voting for - a strong public option as part of health care reform this fall; specifically, we urge Senator Maria Cantwell to work with the Finance Committee to substitute a public option for co-operatives in their bill, as desired by her constituents;

THEREFORE BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED the 34th LD supports Speaker Nancy Pelosi's insistence on retaining a public option in the House version of the health care bill;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the 34th LD urges Senator Harry Reid to support a public option in the Senate version of the bill; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the 34th LD thanks our state Senator Karen Keiser and Representative Eileen Cody for supporting a public option as they work with other state legislators from around the country in their weekly conference calls to the White House.

(Copies of this resolution are to be sent to the above legislators.)

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