

RESOLUTION ON HEALTH CARE REFORM

WHEREAS per capita spending on health care in the United States is almost twice that of any other country, yet produces largely subpar outcomes (e.g., the second highest infant mortality in the industrialized world) and falls well short of universal coverage; and

WHEREAS health care costs drive increasing numbers of families into medical bankruptcy and put American business at a disadvantage against competitors located in countries whose governments, rather than employers, bear the major share of those costs; and

WHEREAS health care costs are rising so fast that 10,000 Americans lose their coverage every day -- with such costs on course to consume an unsustainable 40% of our Gross Domestic Product by 2050; and

WHEREAS the private health insurance industry routinely augments its profitability and increases costs to its insureds by improperly denying claims; and

WHEREAS reform of health care was, along with the state of the economy, one of the two principal domestic issues in the 2008 election that resulted in Democrats winning the White House and significantly increasing their control of Congress; and

WHEREAS the principal components of the needed health care reform were understood to be, and still are, to (1) provide health care for all and (2) reduce costs by (a) drastically cutting back the 30%-40% devoted to private insurance companies' excessive executive compensation, profits, lobbying, marketing and other administrative expenses, and (b) repealing the misguided legislative provision that has wrongfully prevented Medicare from negotiating competitive prices for prescription drugs provided to its beneficiaries; and

WHEREAS the 2008 National Democratic Platform declared universal coverage to be essential to making our health system workable and affordable, and that a "public plan" should be among the options available to all; and

WHEREAS, in the course of both major parties' Presidential candidates promising health care reform, our candidate Barack Obama cited creation of a "public option" entity, robust enough to provide competitive discipline to the health insurance industry, as vital to achieving universal coverage and cost reduction; and

WHEREAS the American people, 77% of whom consider provision of a public option an important component of health care reform, expect and are entitled to expect, from those they have elected to office, prompt and meaningful results on an issue so vital as health care;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we condemn as a sham any health care "reform" program that does not include, *at a minimum*, universal coverage, provision of a robust public option, and authorization of Medicare to negotiate competitive drug prices; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that our President and representatives in the U.S. House and Senate are strongly urged, by their loyal constituents and supporters, to bring about prompt, effective health care reform in accordance with the above.

Adopted September 17, 2009, by 46th District Democrats