

Resolution Supporting Medicare for All, Polk County Oregon Democrats

WHEREAS much is wrong with the cost of and access of health care in our county as evidenced by:

- Our nation spends about 17% of our Gross Domestic Product on healthcare costs contrasted to other industrialized countries that spend around 13% and benefit from universal health care systems¹; and
- US workers pay about 47% more now for healthcare than in 2005 as contrasted to only earnings wages increases of about 18% during that time ²; and
- According to the World Health Organization, our nation ranks 37th overall in health care outcomes ³; and
- 30 cents of every health care dollar is squandered in administrative costs, marketing, and margins or profits ⁴; and
- Over 1,000 insurance companies each with different reimbursement methods contribute toward inefficiencies ⁵; and
- In spite of the passage of the Affordable Care Act, millions in our nation still remain uninsured with limited access to care ⁶; and,

WHEREAS a *Center for Public Integrity* analysis of Senate lobbying disclosure forms ⁷ showed that more than 1,750 companies and organizations hired about 4,525 lobbyists – each for each member of Congress – to influence health reform, and this included over 108 health insurance companies that gave the *US Chamber of Commerce* about \$86.2 million that was used to oppose fundamental health-care reform that could have benefited all citizens in the United States, and the *Chamber* got the money from America's Health Insurance Plans (the trade association with about 1,300 members companies that sell health insurance coverage to more than 200 million Americans) as the industry urged Congress to eliminate a plan to create a competing government-run insurance plan, aka, the Public Option, and

WHEREAS this backchannel spending allowed the health insurance industry to publicly stake out a pro-reform position, while privately funding a leading anti-healthcare reform lobbying group in Washington, and that harmful lobbying and influencing of politicians continued full steam ahead even after the passage of the Affordable Care Act, and,

WHEREAS our nation can fix this crisis by taking healthcare out of the private market and putting it in the hands of a publicly controlled agency such as the one that administers Medicare, which operates with about 3% overhead contrasted to the margin or profit-driven private insurers with an overhead of several times that of Medicare, and,

WHEREAS with the elimination of private, health insurance companies and the enactment of Medicare for All, every citizen would be covered automatically for all medically necessary services, and that act alone reallocates \$400 billion from current administrative costs to patient care with no net increase in health spending, and,

WHEREAS the Institute for Health & Socio-Economic Policy (IHSP), released the results of a study which found 'a single-payer style health care reform system would provide a major stimulus for the US economy by creating 2,600,000 new jobs, and infusing \$317 billion in new business and public revenues, with another \$100 billion in wages into the US economy ⁸ and,

WHEREAS IN 2013, health insurance companies spent over \$138 million dollars on lobbying Washington law makers, ⁹; and,

WHEREAS further concerning Blue Cross Blue Shield raised its CEO salary and bonuses from \$3,800,000 to \$6,600,000 while Blues' officials attempted to justify such excessive compensation by comparing their CEO's performance bonuses to that of stock options that corporate CEO's routinely receive 10;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the The Democratic Party of Polk County denounces health insurance big business interference in our nation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED The Democratic Party of Polk County will continue promoting Medicare for All, and affirms your Association and its leadership's support for Medicare for All without reservation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED The Democratic Party of Polk County will urge our federal legislators to enact Medicare for All.

SUBMITTED BY Gregory Gregg, PCP for Precinct 140 Polk County.

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