

Resolution #2, 6, 12 & 18 merged

SINGLE PAYER HEALTHCARE - EXPANDED AND IMPROVED MEDICARE FOR ALL (H.R. 676)

Submitted by: Capital District Area Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, IATSE Local One, AFSCME Local 154, DC 37,
United University Professions

WHEREAS the cost and coverage of health insurance has become a major stumbling block in union contract negotiations, causing strikes, lock-outs, protracted deliberations and lower monetary offers by management; and

WHEREAS every person in New York State and in all the United States deserves access to affordable, quality health care; and

WHEREAS, there is a growing crisis in health care in the United States of America, manifested in rising healthcare costs, increased premiums, out-of-pocket spending, decreased international business competitiveness, and massive layoffs; and

WHEREAS, up until February of 2008, statistics show that approximately 2.6 million New Yorkers lacked health insurance; and

WHEREAS, those insured now often experience unacceptable medical debt and sometimes life-threatening delays in obtaining health care; and

WHEREAS, one-half of all personal bankruptcies are due to illness or medical bills; and

WHEREAS, the increasing expense of Medicaid and the rising costs of insuring **private and public sector employee needs** can best be met not by limiting benefits, but by expanding them under a national, publicly-funded health insurance program; and

WHEREAS, the complex bureaucracy arising from our system of fragmented, for-profit, multi-payer system of health-care financing consumes approximately 30 percent of the United States' healthcare spending; and

WHEREAS, the myriad of insurance companies and their different forms and coverage criteria force healthcare providers to hire staff solely to deal with the paperwork, further driving up costs; and

WHEREAS, a single-payer health care program would provide an effective mechanism for controlling skyrocketing health costs while covering all Americans' and

WHEREAS, United States Representatives John Conyers has introduced H.R. 676, the United States National Health Insurance Act, in the United States House of Representatives for the 100th Congress, this Act would provide a universal, comprehensive, single payer system of high quality national health insurance; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 676 meets or exceeds the AFL-CIO Health Care for America Campaign Principles; and

WHEREAS, NYS Congressional Representatives Yvette Clark, Eliot Engel, Maurice Hinchey, Carolyn Maloney, Michael McNulty, Gregory Meeks, Jerrold Nadler, Charles Rangel, Jose Serrano, Edolphus Towns, and Anthony Weiner are co-sponsors of H.R. 676, the United States National Health Insurance Act, also called Expanded and Improved Medicare for

All; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Assembly paused in its deliberations on May 27, 2008 to respectfully request the Congress of the United States to enact H.R. 676; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 676 would cover every person in the U.S. for all necessary medical care including prescription drugs, hospital, surgical, outpatient services, primary and preventative care, emergency services, dental, mental health, home health, physical therapy, rehabilitation (including for substance abuse), vision care, chiropractic and long term care, H.R. 676 ends deductibles and co-payments and also restores free choice of healthcare providers to patients and provides comprehensive prescription drug coverage to all; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 676 would save billions annually by eliminating high overhead and profits of the private health insurance industry and HMOs and apply the savings from administration and profits to expanded and improved coverage for all; and

WHEREAS, as of mid-June 2008 H.R. 676 has been endorsed by 430 union organizations in 48 states including 108 Central Labor Councils and Area Labor Federations and 34 state AFL-CIO's (KY, PA, CT, OH, DE, ND, WA, SC, WY, VT, FL, WI, WV, SD, NC, MO, MN, ME, AR, MD-DC, TX, IA, AZ, TN, OR, GA, OK, KS, CO, IN, AL, CA, AK & MI); now therefore be it

WHEREAS, there are approximately 47 million people in the United States without any form of healthcare insurance including approximately 2.4 million New Yorkers; and

WHEREAS, in the greatest industrialized nation in the World, it is unconscionable for people living in the United States to be without adequate healthcare; and

WHEREAS, the cost of prescription drugs and other medical expenses has been on the rise at an average of 13% to 16% per year; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 46 million workers lack health insurance coverage in America; and

WHEREAS, the number of companies that offer health coverage for retirees has been on the decline for the last 20 years. Currently, slightly over 50% of retirees receive health coverage from former employers; and

WHEREAS, the cost of medical care and prescription drugs becomes insurmountable barriers for people with no health insurance. At the same time, the Republican administration has cut Medicaid's projected cost by \$5 billion over five years as the same is expected to grow by 8%; and

WHEREAS, the lack of preventative treatment and unavailable health care coverage forces patients to delay, skip or never receive proper treatment; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that at the New York State AFL-CIO 31st Constitutional Convention, the New York State AFL-CIO hereby endorse H.R. 676.

RESOLVED, that the New York State AFL-CIO call upon the National AFL-CIO to support the aforementioned.