

W. G. B. S.

IN THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF LANE COUNTY, OREGON

RESOLUTION NO. 09-3-31-6) IN THE MATTER OF URGING ENACTMENT
) OF COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL
) HEALTHCARE REFORM AND INSURING AN
) HONEST AND FAIR HEALTHCARE REFORM
) DEBATE

WHEREAS, the Lane County Board of Commissioners believes that every citizen and family of Lane County, the State of Oregon, and the United States will benefit from affordable, quality healthcare, and believes that disruptive healthcare cost burdens on local economics and governments would be reduced thereby; and

WHEREAS, over 82 million Americans have major healthcare insurance problems, including 42 million Americans currently uninsured, and over 40 million Americans nationwide currently underinsured; that the burden on small employers of providing employee health insurance is becoming increasingly difficult and prohibitively expensive, which impacts their ability to remain competitive; and

WHEREAS, such matters as healthcare affordability and access ultimately are community issues with local importance and long-term impacts that strain city and local government budgets in diverse ways, such as public safety and school health issues; and

WHEREAS, Americans spend more for healthcare as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product than any other industrially developed nation; and that America, unlike all or almost all other industrially developed nations, has a fragmented healthcare delivery system; and that, as a matter of common sense, such fragmentation contributes to higher costs and inefficiencies; and

WHEREAS, those insured may still experience high medical debt, and that such medical costs are a frequent cause of filing personal bankruptcy for those that are insured; and

WHEREAS, numerous reports show private insurance systems have higher levels of administrative costs compared to public Single-Payer systems such as Medicare; and

WHEREAS, the United States has created various "Single-Payer-type" medical systems, including Medicare, and that bills have been filed in Congress seeking "Single-Payer-type" comprehensive health system reform, including HR 676; and

WHEREAS, as of the date of this resolution, it appears a majority of American physicians believe that Single-Payer-type systems offer the best method of securing affordable healthcare; and

WHEREAS, such Single-Payer-type systems have been unanimously endorsed by the U.S. Conference of Mayors and Dunes City, Oregon, and further endorsed by various state legislative bodies, including the New Hampshire House of Representatives and the Kentucky House of Representatives, and further endorsed by various medical professional associations including the National Medical Association, American Medical Women's Association, American Medical Student Association (AMSA), American Association of Community Psychiatrists, American Nurses Association, California Nurses Association/National Nurses Organizing Committee, and the American Public Health Association; and

WHEREAS, Citizens of Lane County, Oregon and the United States will benefit from an honest and full debate on alternative health reform proposals only if such debate fairly includes the advantages associated with Single-Payer-type or expanded Medicare-for-all, such as HR 676.

NOW THEREFORE BY IT RESOLVED BY THE LANE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

SECTION 1. That the Lane County Board of Commissioners, in order to ensure that all Americans, like citizens of other developed industrialized nation in the world, will have access to higher quality and cost-effective healthcare, urges the Oregon Congressional Delegation and the United States Congress to enact comprehensive health system reform after insuring an honest, full and fair debate of the options, and that such debate must include Single-Payer-type systems and expansion of a Medicare-for-all system, and their respective advantages.

SECTION 2. The Lane County Board of Commissioners hereby directs a copy of this resolution be sent to our primary county newspapers, radio and television stations, and our Federal Representatives for their due consideration and enactment.

DATED this 31st day of March, 2009.

Pete Sorenson, Chair
Lane County Board of Commissioners

APPROVED AS TO FORM
Date: 4/1/09

OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL