

T-5.a.

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,
LANE COUNTY, OREGON

RESOLUTION 09-11- -

) IN THE MATTER OF URGING
) CONGRESSIONAL ENACTMENT OF NATIONAL
) HEALTH CARE REFORM INCLUDING AN
) IMMEDIATE, LARGE AND ROBUST PUBLIC
) OPTION WHILE ALLOWING STATES TO FORM
) THEIR OWN SINGLE-PAYER HEALTH PLANS

WHEREAS, all people deserve equal access to quality health care; and approximately one third of Oregonians lacked health insurance at some time in 2007-2008; and

WHEREAS, there is a growing crisis in health care in the United States of America, manifested in rising unsustainable health care costs, increased premiums, out-of-pocket spending, and decreased international business competitiveness despite fifty years of dominance by private health insurance; and

WHEREAS, those insured now often experience burdensome medical debt; and half of all personal bankruptcies are due to illnesses or medical bills, while those that are uninsured face documented materially higher risks of death; and the current system profits from incentives for health insurers to drop coverage or deny service, rather than incentives for providing more effective healthcare, as noted by the testimony of Wendell Potter before the Commerce Committee; and

WHEREAS, the rising costs of insuring county employees should not be met by limiting benefits or terminating employment, but by maintaining or expanding health care benefits under an equitable and appropriate new national health care reform system; and

WHEREAS, the complex, inefficient private insurance system bureaucracy arising from our fragmented, for-profit, multi-payer system of health care financing consumes approximately 30 percent of the United States health care spending and clearly will benefit from a large competing public reform catalyst to help reduce cost trends while increasing quality of care or State formation of single-payer health plans; and

WHEREAS, public polls show a majority of Americans want health care reform to offer the choice of a public reform program or option similar to Medicare; and

WHEREAS, a national, public health insurance option, available on day one, or a State single-payer health plan, will create a competitive alternative to existing private health plans, and thus promote competition on the basis of cost, service, quality, and expanded coverage and may lead to lessening medical costs under proper management and if sufficient numbers of Americans are allowed to participate.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Lane County Board of Commissioners:

SECTION 1. Respectfully urges the Oregon Congressional Delegation to promote and strongly advocate for passage of comprehensive national health care reform that includes immediate enactment of a competitive, meaningfully available, fully-funded, progressively and affordably priced, large and robust public plan option;

SECTION 2. The public plan option should be available from the first day insurance mandates are required to be purchased by the public;

SECTION 3. That such reform include the "Kucinich Option" allowing states to form their own alternative single-payer plans;

SECTION 4. 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 or enactment.

DATED this 3rd day of November 2009.

Pete Sorenson, Chair
Lane County Board of Commissioners