

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A SINGLE-PAYER HEALTH PROGRAM
FOR THE STATE OF ILLINOIS**

WHEREAS everyone deserves access to affordable quality healthcare; and

WHEREAS the number of Illinoisans without health insurance now exceeds 1.8 million; and

WHEREAS tens of millions with insurance have coverage so skimpy that a major illness would lead to financial ruin, and medical illness and bills contribute to one-half of all bankruptcies; and

WHEREAS proposals for “consumer directed healthcare” would worsen this situation by penalizing the sick, discouraging prevention and saddling many working families with huge medical bills; and

WHEREAS managed care and other market-based reforms have failed to contain healthcare costs, which now threaten the international competitiveness of U.S. manufacturers; and

WHEREAS administrative waste stemming from our reliance on private insurers consumes one-third of Illinois health spending; and

WHEREAS U.S. hospitals spend 24.3% of their budgets on billing and administration while hospitals under Canada’s single payer system spend only 12.9%; and

WHEREAS American physicians are inundated with bureaucratic tasks and costs that Canadian physicians avoid; and

WHEREAS Harvard researchers estimated more than \$13 billion in administrative waste could be recaptured in Illinois by replacing private insurance companies with a single public payer, enough to cover the uninsured and to improve coverage for all those who now have only partial coverage; and

WHEREAS “consumer directed healthcare” adds yet another expensive layer of bureaucrats – the financial firms that manage health savings accounts; and

WHEREAS entrusting care to profit-oriented firms diverts billions of dollars to outrageous incomes for CEOs and threatens the quality of care; and

WHEREAS a coalition of physician, labor, disability, community and other groups have introduced a proposal for a single-payer system, which would assure universal coverage of all medically necessary services, contain costs by slashing bureaucracy, protect the doctor patient relationship, assure patients a completely free choice of doctors, and allow physicians a free choice of practice settings; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that _____ expresses its support for a statewide single-payer system such as that described in HB 311, and urges the Illinois General Assembly to enact such a program within the current Assembly.