

New Hampshire Democratic Party Convention, 2008

Resolution on National Health Insurance

A Resolution related to the Endorsement of the United States National Health Insurance Act – H.R. 676, offered by Marcosa J. Santiago, M.D., for consideration by the New Hampshire Democratic Party Convention on Saturday, May 17, 2008.

WHEREAS, every person in the United States, has the right to and deserves equitable, affordable, quality health care, and

WHEREAS, the United States has an excellent infrastructure of hospitals, physicians, specialists, and modern medical equipment, and

WHEREAS, the U.S. health care expenditure is more than twice as much per capita as Europe, Canada, and Japan, and

WHEREAS, despite above mentioned seeming best of all conditions, the World Health Organization (WHO), ranks the U.S. health care system as 37th of 190 countries, and 72nd on the performance level of health care, and

WHEREAS, overall health care measures disparities exist along racial, ethnic, and socio-economic lines, with many medically underserved areas and populations, and many health professional shortages in certain areas, and

WHEREAS, many families are unable to access health care because of the inability to afford the high cost of premiums, the high deductibles, out-of-pocket costs, and

WHEREAS, millions with health insurance have coverage so inadequate that a major illness would lead to financial ruin, and medical illness and bills cause about one-half of all personal bankruptcies, and

WHEREAS, the number of Americans without health insurance now exceeds 47 million, 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 United States health care spending, and

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

WHEREAS, each citizen's "pursuit of happiness" depends upon maintaining health, and

WHEREAS, a healthy economy depends upon a healthy and productive citizenry, and

WHEREAS, the General Accounting Office concludes that if the U.S. shifted to a single-payer system of universal coverage, “the savings in administrative costs would be more than enough to offset the cost” of providing health care to everyone, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the New Hampshire Democratic Party supports the establishment of a universal single-payer, national health care system in the U.S., and be it further

RESOLVED, that this system be publicly financed, but privately delivered; allow people to choose their own health care providers, and provide preventive health care, dental care, mental health care, long-term care, chiropractic, hearing, vision, and affordable prescription drugs; and make health care available to everyone regardless of pre-existing conditions, status of employment, or income level, and

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the New Hampshire Democratic Party endorses, and respectfully urges the United States Congress to enact, the United States National Health Insurance Act (H.R. 676) sponsored by U.S. Representative Conyers, and adopt its goal of universal single-payer health insurance.

Adopted unanimously on May 17, 2008.