

# **Resolution in Support of HR 676, National Single Payer Legislation, Expanded and Improved Medicare for All**

Although capable of great medicine, America's health care system is in deep trouble. In spite of efforts to regulate the insurance industry, for-profit health insurance companies are finding ways to skirt the law. The Affordable Care Act, passed in 2010, made it possible for some of the uninsured to find coverage, but did not resolve the problem that health insurance companies are pricing care beyond our means.

Rising co-pays and deductibles make it more difficult for those who have insurance to get the care they need. The excise tax of 2018 (since delayed) will make things worse.

Employers seek to drop health benefits for early retirees, for spouses, for part timers. Some corporations use bankruptcy laws to shirk their contractual health care obligations. The rising cost of health insurance is blocking progress in wages and other areas.

Insurance companies rather than patients are deciding what doctors we can see and what hospitals we can use. Drug company profits soar as, so far, congress has not used the power of bulk purchasing to bring down the prices. The US spends double per capita what other industrialized nations spend, yet ranks far below in life expectancy and infant mortality.

We deserve better. It doesn't have to be this way. Firefighters don't ask us to pay before they save our families from burning houses. They just proceed to do the right thing. Health care is just as important as fire protection. Lives are at stake and all of us should have the best care that this wealthy nation has the ability to provide. Our tax dollars subsidize the research, the medical schools, and the hospitals. We're already paying for the best care but not getting it.

HR 676, Expanded and Improved Medicare for All, has been introduced into each session of Congress since 2003. It will establish a single payer health care system by expanding a greatly improved Medicare to cover everyone. It will restore our right to choose our physicians and free us from insurance company interference in medical decisions. It will free our health care from corporate control.

HR 676 will cover everyone for all necessary medical care including dental, prescription drugs, hospital, surgical, outpatient services, primary and preventive care, emergency services, mental health, home health, physical therapy, rehabilitation (including for substance abuse), vision care, chiropractic, eyeglasses, hearing aids, other medical devices and long term care.

HR 676 will end premiums, deductibles and co-payments.

HR 676 will save hundreds of billions annually by eliminating the high overhead and profits of the private health insurance industry and by using our purchasing power to rein in the drug companies. The transition to national health insurance would apply the savings from eliminating administrative waste and profits to expanding and improving care for all.

**Resolved:**

That \_\_\_\_\_ wholeheartedly endorses HR 676, “Expanded and Improved Medicare for All,” a single payer health care program.

That \_\_\_\_\_ will work with others in our community to build a groundswell of popular support and action for single payer universal health care and HR 676 until we make what is morally right for our nation into what is also politically possible.

That \_\_\_\_\_ will send a copy of this resolution to our Congressional representatives and to our Senators.

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\_\_\_ Yes, our organization endorsed HR 676:

Name of organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed by \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

If your organization is interested in having a speaker on HR 676, please check here \_\_\_\_.

Please return to: Kay Tillow, Kentuckians for Single Payer Health Care, c/o Nurses Professional Organization, 1169 Eastern Parkway, #2218, Louisville, KY 40217, (502) 636-1551, [nursenpo@aol.com](mailto:nursenpo@aol.com) , <http://unionsforsinglepayer.org/> Printed in house. Labor donated.



# KENTUCKY LEGISLATURE

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## HCR40

[HCR 40](#) (BR 991) - J. Jenkins, T. Burch, J. Wayne

Urge the U.S. Congress to pass H.R. 676, the United States National Health Insurance Act.

Jan 4-introduced in House

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A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION endorsing the National Health Insurance Act.

WHEREAS, every person in Kentucky and in 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 health care costs, increased premiums, out-of-pocket spending, decreased international business competitiveness, and massive layoffs; and

WHEREAS, approximately 582,000 Kentuckians lacked health insurance in 2004; 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 illnesses or medical bills; and

WHEREAS, the increasing expense of Medicaid and the rising cost of insuring state employees and teachers 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 thirty percent (30%) of United States health care spending; and

WHEREAS, researchers from Harvard University found that this bureaucracy consumed more than \$4 billion of Kentucky's health care spending in 2003, which equals \$8,216 per uninsured Kentucky resident, and these expenditures are enough to provide comprehensive coverage to everyone in Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, United States Representative John Conyers has introduced H.R. 676, the United States National Health Insurance Act, in the United States House of Representatives for the 109th Congress, and this act would provide a universal, comprehensive, single-payer system of high quality national health insurance;

NOW, THEREFORE,

***Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the Senate concurring therein:***

Section 1. The Kentucky General Assembly respectfully urges the United States Congress to enact the United States National Health Insurance Act sponsored by Representative Conyers.

Section 2. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the President of the United States and the members of the Kentucky Congressional Delegation.

<http://www.lrc.ky.gov/record/06RS/HC40.htm>

<http://www.lrc.ky.gov/record/06RS/HC40/bill.doc>

Warren County Commission  
McMinnville, Tennessee

**Regular Session**  
**October 17, 2005**

**RESOLUTION \_\_\_\_**

***A RESOLUTION urging Warren County's representatives in the Congress of the United States to endorse, support and work for the passage of HR 676, known as the United States National Health Insurance Act.***

*WHEREAS* Warren County taxpayers contribute to the financial support of the health insurance system for its public-school teachers and ancillary personnel; and

*WHEREAS* the local tax subsidy is a minor factor in the school employees' health insurance outlays but nevertheless represents, in the aggregate, a substantial cost to local taxpayers; and

*WHEREAS* present economic realities militate against significant increases in local government contributions to school employees' health insurance premiums; and

*WHEREAS* the Tennessee Education Association calculates that the net "take-home" pay for Warren County teachers ranks next to last among Tennessee's 136 local school districts, a disparity in which the high cost of health insurance and the relatively low local subsidy are dominant factors; and

*WHEREAS* this commission's Education Committee found in a hearing October 10, 2005, that the higher subsidies offered by competing school systems have figured in the decision by some experienced Warren County teachers to leave the local system and this community for employment situations in other systems; and

*WHEREAS* pending legislation in the Congress of the United States (HR 676, The United States National Health Insurance Act) would make quality health care available to all American citizens; and

*WHEREAS* we recognize among the civil rights of all American citizens reasonable access to competent, effective and timely medical, surgical and rehabilitative care appropriate to each person's need;

*NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED* by the Warren County Commission that this statement be forwarded to US Senators Bill Frist and Lamar Alexander, and to US Representative Lincoln Davis, as an expression of support for the legislative objectives of HR 676.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED* that this local legislative body call upon the said United States Senators and Representative to support passage of HR 676, and that each be asked by this commission's chair to reply within 45 days from adoption of this resolution to advise this body of his position with respect to that proposed legislation.

*Adopted this 17<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2005.*

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**Kenneth Rogers**, Warren County Executive and Chair, Warren County Commission

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_ **H David Smartt**, Warren County Clerk

-----Press Release-----

January 27, 2014

## VICCO STAYS IN SPOTLIGHT

VICCO, Ky—This little Appalachian community that made national news a year ago by passing a Fairness Ordinance did it again Monday night. It voted to endorse HR 676, Single Payer Healthcare—joining 54 other American cities, including Chicago, San Francisco, Seattle, Philadelphia, Detroit and Baltimore.

The struggling coal town of 334 people unanimously endorsed Expanded and Improved Medicare for All, HR 676, national single payer legislation sponsored by Congressman John Conyers, Jr. (D MI). Vicco—established by the Virginia Iron Coal and Coke Company—is now the fourth Kentucky local government to favor HR 676. The others are Metro Louisville, Boyle County, and the City of Morehead. In 2007, the Kentucky House legislators also endorsed the bill.

Vicco was put on the map early last year when the New York Times, USA Today, the LA Times and other national media covered the passage of the town's new law prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. It was the smallest city in America to pass such a law.

Vicco gained further fame last August when Mayor Johnny Cummings and City Commissioners were featured on the Colbert Show on cable television. The Colbert Segment went viral with almost three quarters of a million views.

Since then, people around the country have contacted the town in the interests of developing it economically through tourism or otherwise. At an event that featured Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan last September, University of Kentucky President Eli Capilouto was referring to Vicco when he described Kentucky as a place “deep in values that show up in unexpected ways and in unexpected places.” <http://realestate.aol.com/blog/2013/09/23/discrimination-law-benefits-vicco-ky/>

Vicco's new-found reputation as a progressive and humane community, led to a presentation Monday night on health care by Dr. Garrett Adams, past president of Physicians for a National Health Program, and three Louisville colleagues, all representing Kentuckians for Single Payer Healthcare (KSPH). It was pointed out that the average male life expectancy nationwide is over 76 years, and in Kentucky only 73 years. However, in Perry County, where Vicco is located, the average male life span is only 68.3 years. Female life expectancy while higher shows similar disparity.

All countries that have had single payer healthcare systems for decades have life spans that exceed that of Americans. The KSPH members pointed out that every person in Vicco—and everywhere else in the United States—would be covered by a plan similar to the Medicare system that now serves those over 65 years of age. The HR 676 bill would expand Medicare to all ages and would improve it to include dental, vision and mental health care. Patients would choose their own doctors and hospitals and there would be no co-pays or deductibles.

Kay Tillow, Chair of KSPH, said, "It's a moral issue. We believe that health care should not depend on ability to pay. We invite other cities to join our grassroots movement. We want to see everyone covered."

The Vicco city commissioners decided that it would throw the weight of the town government behind this movement.

### NEWS CONTACT:

Garrett Adams MD MPH, Louisville, KY Cell (502) 432 4022, Physicians for a National Health Program-KY, [www.pnhp.org](http://www.pnhp.org)  
Kay Tillow Home (502) 636-1551, Cell (917) 621-7268 (KSPH Chair) [nursenpo@aol.com](mailto:nursenpo@aol.com)

Kentuckians for Single Payer Health Care  
[www.kyhealthcare.org](http://www.kyhealthcare.org)  
(502) 636 1551  
[nursenpo@aol.com](mailto:nursenpo@aol.com)



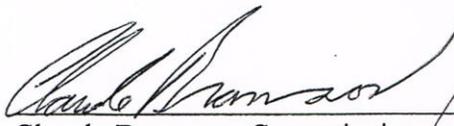
**Whereas:** Barriers to quality medical care infringe on the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and access to health care is a fundamental human right; and

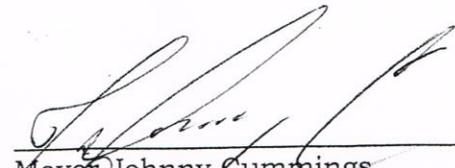
**Whereas** a bill has been introduced in Congress, H.R. 676, aka The Expanded and Improved Medicare for All Act, that will provide all medically necessary care, including dental and prescription drugs, to everyone in the country from birth to death. There will be no co-pays nor deductibles so that inability to pay will be removed as an impediment to care.

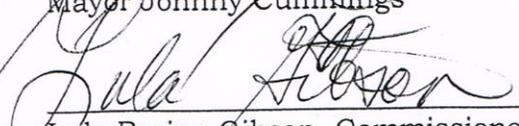
**Whereas with** HR 676 each person will choose their own physicians, hospitals, and other providers.

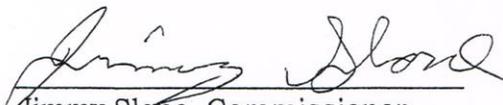
**Therefore, be it Resolved That** the City of Vicco wholeheartedly endorses H. R. 676, The Expanded and Improved Medicare for All Act; and

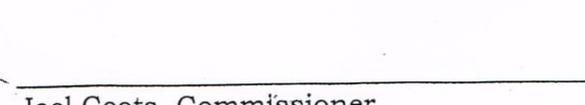
**Be it Further Resolved that** we call on our representative in Congress, Representative Harold Rogers, to formally co-sponsor H. R. 676, so the people of our city, our state and our nation can move forward toward the excellent health care we deserve.

  
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Claude Branson, Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Johnny Cummings

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lula Regina Gibson, Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jimmy Slone, Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joel Coots, Commissioner