

Proposed Resolution Supporting SB 5204, Creating the Whole Washington Trust and supporting H. R. 1976 and Senate companion bill To establish an improved Medicare for All national health insurance program.

WHEREAS a vast majority of Americans now support Medicare-for-all, otherwise known as single-payer healthcare, according to an August 2018 Reuters survey 85 percent of Democrats and 52 percent of Republicans; and

WHEREAS the 2020 National Democratic Party platform states ". . . as Democrats, we fundamentally believe health care is a right for all, not a privilege for the few."; and

WHEREAS the 2020 Washington State Democratic platform states "Health care is a basic human right," and states "An affordable universal single-payer system is essential to provide the most equitable and effective health care, serving both individual and public health needs" and also states "That no one should be pushed into bankruptcy and financial ruin due to health care costs"; and

WHEREAS medical bills are the number one cause of U.S. bankruptcies (~62.1%). Over 2 million people are adversely affected by their medical expenses.

(<https://www.thebalance.com/medical-bankruptcy-statistics-4154729>); and

WHEREAS there is a disconnect between the Democratic party position considering health care to be a right and the lack of support for bills that correct the disconnect; and

WHEREAS Washington Senate Bill 5204 (2021) will create the whole Washington health trust, a single non-profit, health financing entity that would ensure all Washington residents can enroll in "nonprofit health insurance coverage providing an essential set of health benefits, including medical, dental, vision, and prescription drug benefits" and would eliminate the burden of current high premiums, deductibles, and, with modest exceptions, copayments; and

WHEREAS H.R.1976 - Medicare for All Act of 2021 and Senate companion bill would establish a national health insurance program to provide comprehensive protection against the costs of health care and health-related services; and

WHEREAS the lack of Democratic Representative support for Washington Senate Bill 5204, H.R.1976 - Medicare for All Act of 2021 and Senate companion bill implies approval of our current medical extortion system and the lack of representation for the majority of their constituents; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the LD-10 Democrats call on our State Democratic Representation to support passage of SB 5204, creating the Whole Washington Health Trust; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the LD-10 Democrats call on our Federal Democratic Representation to support passage of transformative legislation that would guarantee health care to everyone in America as a human right, the Medicare for All Act of 2021 introduced by U.S. Representatives Pramila Jayapal (WA-07) and Debbie Dingell (MI-12); and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LD-10 Democrats will send this resolution to our legislators, the Washington State Democratic Central Committee, the Leader, and the local newspapers of LD-10.

Submitted by John Ficalora, July 22, 2021

Passed on September 18, 2021

