

## **Resolution: Support for Improved Patient Care and Staffing for Quality Affordable Health Care in San Mateo County**

WHEREAS, it has been brought to our attention that in the complicated health care market, some healthcare providers leverage their market power to charge consumers prices that are many times higher than the cost of treatment that do not reflect quality of care that patients receive; Currently, some healthcare providers charge as much as 600% above cost for patient care; these overcharges are often passed on to consumers in the form of higher premiums, co-pays, and other out-of-pocket expenses; and

WHEREAS, it has been brought to our attention that the federal government's Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services' penalized Stanford Health Care for the third year in a row over the hospital's underperformance on Hospital Acquired Condition (HAC) quality-of-care measures, including infection rates such as Clostridium Difficile, Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus, Surgical Site Infections. These low scores placed Stanford in the worst-performing quartile of hospitals in the country with respect to HACs, and resulted in a penalty of 1% reduction in Medicare payments to the hospital for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018; and

WHEREAS, it has been reported that over five fiscal years from 2010-2014 Stanford Health Care's operating income increased an average of 32% each year and operating margin (profit) averaged over twice the statewide average;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The San Mateo Democratic Central Committee calls on Stanford Health Care to address these healthcare concerns raised by patients and caregivers seeking to improve patient care and worker conditions while providing quality, affordable health care services, working with county and local government agencies and the employees and their unions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The San Mateo Democratic Central Committee will transmit this resolution to the Stanford Health Care Chief Executive Officer and Board of Directors, city councils where facilities are located, relevant county health officials, and unions.