



Healthcare For All

WHEREAS, The United States spends nearly twice as much on healthcare per capita than any country, yet we're far less healthy than those in many other developed countries as measured by a range of indicators, including infant mortality and life expectancy; and

WHEREAS, While the Affordable Care Act of 2010 (ACA) expanded and improved health coverage, it did not resolve the problem of health insurance and pharmaceutical companies pricing care and prescription drugs beyond the means of many Americans. The proportion of personal bankruptcies caused by medical crises has not declined; and

WHEREAS, Rising co-pays and deductibles make it more difficult for those who have insurance to afford needed care. Even the best job-based health insurance often vanishes when prolonged illness causes job loss. Many employers do not cover health benefits for early retirees, spouses and part-time employees. 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; and

WHEREAS, The United States is the only large industrialized country without universal healthcare — a system in which every citizen has access to affordable healthcare. The high costs of paying employee's health insurance puts U.S. private businesses at a competitive disadvantage internationally. It is estimated that universal healthcare could reduce labor cost by more than 12 percent — money that could be used for other forms of compensation, such as workers' wages and retirement benefits; and

WHEREAS, While the marketplace has a role to play, our government must play the central role in regulating, financing and providing health care. The experience of Medicare shows us the most cost effective and equitable way to provide quality health care is through a single-payer national system; and

WHEREAS, The 2020 Presidential, Congressional, and Gubernatorial races will impact the future of the ACA and American healthcare.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The UWUA and its affiliates will continue to oppose efforts to sabotage the Affordable Care Act. We will continue to seek to overturn Trump administration rules that weaken private insurance requirements and allow short-duration plans that do not comply with ACA standards for denying coverage based on existing conditions and that do not provide essential health benefits, such as prescription drugs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, While we will continue to fight to improve the ACA, Medicaid, and Medicare, the only way to effectively reform the U.S. healthcare system is to provide universal access to affordable, comprehensive health care regardless of a person's health status or income, and to provide benefits that include physician and hospital care, outpatient care, dental, vision, and hearing services, rehabilitation, long-term care, mental health care, and prescription drugs to all United States residents; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, The UWUA is committed to working toward "Medicare for All" to establish a single payer health care system by expanding a greatly improved Medicare to cover everyone in a system that restores our right to choose our own health care providers and that frees us from insurance company interference in medical decisions.