

## RESOLUTION 01-01, 2020

### A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE PASSAGE OF STATE OR FEDERAL LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE SIMPLE GUARANTEED QUALITY HEALTH CARE FOR ALL FOR LIFE.

WHEREAS: The United States of America spends far more per capita on health care than any other industrialized nation, yet nearly 30 million Americans remain uninsured; at least 40 million more cannot afford the costs of their copays and deductibles; and 30,000 people die annually in the U.S. due to a lack of coverage; and

WHEREAS: Despite spending nearly 19 percent of its gross domestic product on health care, the U.S. ranks 35th in the world by global health standards, including on such critical barometers as average life expectancy, infant mortality, maternal mortality, and death from preventable diseases; and

WHEREAS: An estimated one-quarter to one-third of health care spending is on administrative costs, including generating bills and collecting payments; and

WHEREAS: Improved Medicare for All would establish a simpler system of public financing that retains the private provider system with real patient choice and greater transparency on how public dollars are spent; and

WHEREAS: Improved Medicare for All would allow patients to choose their doctors, hospitals, and other providers without having to worry about whether a provider is “in network,” while completely covering all primary care; hospital and outpatient services; dental, vision, and audiology; women’s reproductive health services; maternity and newborn care; long-term services and supports; prescription drugs, mental health and substance abuse treatment; laboratory and diagnostic services; ambulatory services, and more; and

WHEREAS: Although the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) made important improvements, primarily through the Medicaid expansion in states that agreed to do so and limits on certain insurance industry abuses, it still left tens of millions with a continuing crisis in access, cost, and quality of care; and

WHEREAS: The uninsured rate for U.S. adults has risen for four straight years, even after implementation of the ACA, with the greatest increase among women, young adults, and lower-income people; and

WHEREAS: Too many Americans are one medical crisis away from bankruptcy or are forced to choose between rent or food and life-saving medical treatments; and

WHEREAS: Annual spending on prescription drugs, a major cost driver of health care, exceeds \$350 billion; and

WHEREAS: Our current health care system largely ties health insurance coverage to employment, hurting vulnerable workers and the underemployed; and

WHEREAS: The rising costs of health care place material burdens on municipal, county, and school board budgets as well as all businesses, diverting funds that could be used to provide infrastructure and services, expand employment, and increase wages; and

WHEREAS: Health care costs borne by cities and counties must be financed in large measure through sales and use taxes, which disproportionately burden poor and lower-paid people and people living on fixed incomes such as Social Security; and

WHEREAS: Improved Medicare for All would guarantee that all residents of the Town of Jamestown will be fully covered for health care without copays, deductibles or other out-of-pocket costs, and would save millions in taxpayer dollars now spent on premiums that provide often inadequate health insurance coverage for government employees; and

WHEREAS: A universal, single-payer, Improved Medicare for All state or national health program will result in a substantial savings to the Town of Jamestown and its residents, and is projected to cost up to \$5 trillion less nationwide than the current health system over the next 10 years;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN OF JAMESTOWN BOARD OF TRUSTEES:**

The Town of Jamestown affirms that health care is a human right that should be guaranteed to all U.S. residents; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Jamestown endorses state or federal legislation that will establish simple guaranteed quality health care for all Colorado/U.S. residents for life, expand health coverage and health security, eliminate health care disparities, and lower health care costs for all of our residents; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Jamestown will notify all members of Colorado's congressional delegation of this endorsement, and urge each of them to co-sponsor legislation which will provide simple guaranteed quality health care for all for life, such as Improved Medicare for All-type legislation.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Jamestown encourages all its residents to contact their member of Congress and other elected representatives to encourage them to co-sponsor legislation which will provide simple guaranteed quality health care for all for life.

**INTRODUCED, READ AND ADOPTED THIS 13<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JANUARY, 2020**

Attest:

  
Kristi Rutledge, Town Clerk

  
Kenneth Lenarcic, Mayor