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Advocates Celebrate as New Haven Board of Alders Passes Resolution in Favor of Medicare for All

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NEW HAVEN, CT — On the evening of Monday, August 2, the New Haven Board of Alders unanimously approved a resolution in support of Medicare for All that had received overwhelming community support.

The resolution was sponsored by organizations such as Medicare For All

CT, New Haven Rising, and the Connecticut Working Families Party, and received over 500 letters of support from New Haven residents. Several community members, organized by Medicare for All CT, were in attendance and celebrated as the resolution passed.



“New Haven residents have been reaching out to us non-stop since this resolution was introduced,” said Alder Darryl Brackeen, Jr. “We kept their voices and letters in mind when passing the resolution unanimously through the Health and Human Services Committee at our last meeting, and the entire Board of Alders definitely kept it in mind tonight.”

The resolution includes a clause that, when enacted, it must be delivered to members of Connecticut’s congressional delegation, U.S. Representative Rosa DeLauro, U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal, and U.S. Senator Chris Murphy.

“After spending the past few months talking to New Haven residents about their medical care, I’m even more convinced that free, accessible healthcare is a human right that our current health insurance system doesn’t facilitate for the majority of people,” said Dana Asby, a member of the Medicare For All CT advisory panel and a New Haven resident. “Many of the people I’ve spoken with were shocked to find that Rosa DeLauro does not support the federal Medicare for All bill, HR 1976. New Haven residents support this resolution because they want Rosa DeLauro to represent their interests and co-sponsor this bill in the House.”

Medicare for All CT has now contributed to the passing of resolutions in support of Medicare for All in 3 different Connecticut cities, including New Haven, New London, and Windham.

Read the full text of the resolution below:

Resolution in Support of the Medicare for All Act of 2021

WHEREAS, high quality health care is a human right for every person in New Haven; and

WHEREAS universal access to comprehensive healthcare is an important part of public health; and

WHEREAS the \$3.5 trillion US multi-payer is the most expensive in the world, yet has left nearly 30 million Americans without health insurance and over 40 million underinsured; and

WHEREAS millions with insurance have coverage so inadequate that a major illness can lead to financial ruin, and medical illness and bills contribute to two-thirds of all bankruptcies; and

WHEREAS, the rising costs of health care strains our already strapped municipal budget and our small businesses, which we need for our communities to thrive; and

WHEREAS, recent polls show that a majority of Americans support Medicare for All; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 1976, the Medicare for All Act of 2021, would provide universal single-payer health insurance for every person in the United States for all necessary medical care including prescription drugs; hospital, surgical and outpatient services; primary and preventive care; emergency services; reproductive care; dental and vision care; and long-term care; and

WHEREAS the Medicare for All Act of 2021 would provide coverage without premiums, copays, deductibles or other out-of-pocket costs, and would slash bureaucracy, protect the doctor-patient relationship and assure patients a free choice of doctors; and

WHEREAS, adoption of H.R. 1976, the Medicare for All Act of 2021, would guarantee that all residents of the United States, including residents of New Haven, would be fully covered for health care and would save millions in taxpayer dollars now spent on premiums that provide often inadequate health insurance coverage; and

WHEREAS, the quality of life for the residents of New Haven will vastly improve because they would be able to get the ongoing care they need, instead of waiting

until they have a medical emergency that could upend their lives as well as further burden local resources;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the New Haven Board of Alders enthusiastically supports Medicare for All Act and calls on our federal legislators to work toward enactment of H.R. 1976, the Medicare for All Act of 2021, assuring appropriate and efficient health care for all residents of the United States.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the New Haven Board of Alders expresses its enthusiastic support for a state-level single payer in Connecticut, similar to legislation which already exists in neighboring states — Rhode Island (H.5611 Comprehensive Health Insurance Program),

Massachusetts (H.1194 An Act Establishing Medicare for All in Massachusetts) and New York (A.5248 New York Health Act) — and calls on our state legislators to work toward the immediate introduction of similar legislation and the enactment of such legislation to guarantee healthcare to all Connecticut residents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution, when enacted, be delivered to members of Connecticut congressional delegation, U.S. Representative Rosa DeLauro, U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal, and U.S. Senator Chris Murphy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we include in our 2021 Federal Legislative Agenda that we support H.R. 1976 and S. 1129.