RESOLUTION 2022-036 OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR IMPROVED MEDICARE FOR ALL AS A NATIONAL HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

WHEREAS, by its adoption of Resolution 2020-112, and Resolution 2021-110, approving the City's Legislative Policy Agenda for the 2021 and 2022 legislative sessions, the City Council has established that it is City's legislative policy related to health care that the City:

- 1. Supports health care policy that provides single-payer, not-for-profit health care to all residents.
- 2. Supports the portability of health care plans across employers and state-lines.
- 3. Supports health care policies that end the practice in the United States of employers being the primary source of health insurance for residents.
- 4. Supports policies that allocate costs to individuals and their families proportional to their ability to pay; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically demonstrated the failings of the patchwork of health care financing programs serving Fort Collins, Colorado and the nation; and

WHEREAS, the pandemic has demonstrated the critical roles people of all income levels provide to keep our economy functioning properly and that everyone in our society must have access to high quality, affordable health care in order to continue providing these services; and

WHEREAS, the pandemic has also highlighted the systemic racial bias present in our health care system: and

WHEREAS, the City's goals for diversity, equity and inclusion cannot be fully realized under the current patchwork of health care financing programs: and

WHEREAS, the increasing demand for affordable mental health services cannot be met with our current health care financing system: and

WHEREAS, the current health care system is viewed as a root cause of intergenerational poverty making it increasingly more difficult for Fort Collins residents to afford housing, childcare and elder care: and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive national health care system should negotiate the prices for prescription drugs as is done in most other developed countries; and

WHEREAS, many small businesses in Fort Collins struggle to attract and retain employees because employees are often looking for jobs with health care benefits; and

WHEREAS, the Fort Collins economy would benefit when entrepreneurs have the freedom to pursue their vision without being constrained by the potential loss of health care for themselves and their family members if they leave existing employment; and

WHEREAS, while an ultimate solution to the problem will be at the national level, the current pain inflicted by our dysfunctional health care system is very local and directly impacting Fort Collins residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS as follows:

Section 1. That the City Council hereby adopts the determinations and findings contained in the recitals set forth above.

Section 2. That the Fort Collins City Council hereby urges the Governor of Colorado, members of the Colorado General Assembly, and Colorado's congressional delegation to actively support legislation such as *HR 1976*, the Medicare for All Act of 2021 or subsequent or similar legislation that results in comprehensive, affordable health care for all residents of the United States and is funded by a not-for-profit, single payer system.

Section 3. That a copy of this Resolution should be sent by the Mayor on behalf of the City Council to the Governor of Colorado, to members of the Colorado General Assembly representing Fort Collins and to the members of Congress representing the Fort Collins area.

Passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the Council of the City of Fort Collins this 1st

day of March, A.D. 2022.

ATTEST:

City Clerk