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**Amherst Town Council Approves Medicare for All Resolution**

On October 2, the Amherst Town Council approved a Resolution in Support of Acts Establishing Medicare for All for Massachusetts Residents by a unanimous vote supporting the establishment of improved and expanded Medicare for All, an equitable system of universal health coverage for all Massachusetts residents.

The Amherst Town Meeting passed similar resolutions in 2000 and 2006. In November 2018, 88% of Amherst citizens voted "yes" on a ballot question supporting the establishment of a system of single-payer health care.  With this vote of our Town Council, Amherst joins hundreds of other towns and cities around the country in Public Citizen's grassroots campaign for simplified, universal, and democratically governed health care.

Councilor Hanneke stated, "I see universal health care as a potential economic boost for the town.  The town budget may reap the savings from a single payer health care system for its employees that would allow the Town to reallocate taxpayer money away from health insurance costs and into other programs, expenses, and investments for the Town.” Data that supports significant savings from single payer health care in the US has been provided by University of Massachusetts health economist and Amherst resident, Gerald Friedman.

Healthcare Activist Diana Stein, of the League of Women Voters adds, "People always ask me, 'but how will we pay for universal healthcare?' We're paying for it already; we're just not getting it. The US spends more than twice as much as other developed countries for healthcare, yet unlike in other nations (with universal care), our life expectancy is the lowest among comparable countries and has not rebounded after Covid-19. In the US, maternal and child mortality also continues to increase steeply, with Black mothers three times more likely to die in childbirth than their white counterparts."

"I am grateful that the Town Council has lent its support," says Anita Sarro, a nurse-lawyer living in South Amherst. "There is a growing body of evidence showing how non-white populations suffer higher rates of illness and death under our current system of health care. Medicare for All would address that inequity by removing economic barriers. It is a fundamental social justice issue."

The resolution now goes to our members of Congress, Senators Markey and Warren, and Representative McGovern, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the President of the United States as well as state officials Governor Healy, Senators Comerford and Eldridge, Representatives Domb and Sabadosa.

See attached draft of the Resolution.