CITY OF SONOMA

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_ - 2021

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SONOMA IN SUPPORT OF A SINGLE-PAYER HEALTH CARE SYSTEM FOR CALIFORNIA

WHEREAS, the 2020 Vision of the Sonoma City Council is that Sonoma will continue as a vibrant, entrepreneurial economy fueled largely by retention and incubation of locally-owned businesses that complement the small-town atmosphere and provide high-paying jobs; and

WHEREAS, the Economic Policy Institute (EPI) in March 2020 noted that, “despite the significant gains in health care coverage spurred by the passage of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) in 2010, roughly 23 million Americans between the ages of 19 and 64 are uninsured, and another 64 million are underinsured”; and

WHEREAS, the EPI also noted that a Single-Payer medical health care plan would “bolster the labor market, strengthen economic security for millions of U.S. households, and would likely boost the number of jobs in the U.S. labor market”; and

WHEREAS, according to the Commonwealth Fund in January 2020, “the United States spends more on health care as a share of the economy — nearly twice as much as the average OECD country — yet has the lowest life expectancy and highest suicide rates among … 11 nations”; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures in 2018, premiums for families have gone from roughly $13,500 per year in 2009 to nearly $20,000 per year in 2018 (a roughly 4.3% increase each year, even as inflation between those periods has been 1.76% per year); and

WHEREAS, in an October 2019 study reported by the Institute of Medicine (IOM), the amount of total “waste” in our present healthcare delivery system was reported at between $760 Billion to $935 Billion, “accounting for approximately 25% of total health care spending”; and

WHEREAS, a Single-Payer Health Insurance program for the State of California, as advocated by Governor Newsom, would build upon the successful public health programs such as Medicare, MediCal and that of the Veterans Health Administration, and would provide healthcare to all residents of the state independent of their employment status; and

WHEREAS, healthcare institutions and providers could be spared much of the administrative costs and time burden that can now characterize the provision of healthcare services; and

WHEREAS, households in the City of Sonoma are likely to save money under a Single-Payer Healthcare System and physicians would be able to focus on efficiently providing the best care possible for all residents; and

WHEREAS, the cost of city employee healthcare benefits (now running at about $700,000 per year, not counting health care costs embedded in other contracts) could decrease to the City of Sonoma, allowing more funds for other public uses; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Sonoma that it hereby encourages and supports a Single-Payer Healthcare System for California; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Sonoma urges the California Legislature to pass and Governor Newsom to sign AB 1400 (Kalra, D-San Jose, 2021), the “Guaranteed Health Care for All” bill implementing such a system.

ADOPTED this 1st day of March, 2021 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

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Logan Harvey, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Rebekah Barr, City Clerk