



"The Capital City of the Palm Beaches"

Lois J. Frankel
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May 8, 2008

Mr. Eugene Lowe
Assistant Executive Director
The United States Conference of Mayors
1620 I Street, N.W., Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Mr. Lowe:

On behalf of the City of West Palm Beach, Florida, thank you for processing the attached resolution in support of the United States National Health Insurance Act (H.R. 676). As so many other cities nationwide, our budget is stretched thin and the deficits are impacting our citizens well being. Millions of people are suffering due to lack of access to care and too many are losing their homes to bankruptcy due to skyrocketing medical costs.

In Florida we have 3.8 million uninsured and a \$4 billion projected budget gap for the 2009 fiscal year. Quality, affordable health care for our city employees and our citizens is at a critical crossroads. It is a service to our nation for the United States Conference of Mayors to encourage our federal legislators to work towards the immediate enactment of The United States National Health Insurance Act (H.R. 676).

We are pleased to be working with a local organization, Floridians for Health Care (FFHC) whose contact person is Alison Landes. FFHC is a member of The Conference of Mayors Allied Council. On our behalf they are assisting us in reaching out to other mayors who will join us in bringing this resolution to Children, Health and Human Services Standing Committee and ultimately to the attention of the body of mayors as a whole at the upcoming Annual Conference June 20-24, 2008.

We will forward the names and required information of other mayors who agree to co-sponsor this resolution prior to May 21, 2008. Thank you for your assistance in processing this resolution.

Sincerely,

Lois J. Frankel
Mayor

cc: Crystal Swann
Alison Landes

"Equal Opportunity Employer"

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE ACT (H.R. 676)

WHEREAS every person deserves access to affordable quality health care; and

WHEREAS the number of Americans without health insurance now exceeds 47 million; and

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

WHEREAS proposals for "consumer directed health care," such as Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) or Health Reimbursement Accounts (HRAs), would only worsen this situation by penalizing the sick, discouraging prevention and saddling many working families with huge medical bills; and

WHEREAS managed care and other market-based reforms have failed to contain health care costs, which now threaten the international competitiveness of U.S. manufacturers; and

WHEREAS administrative waste stemming from our reliance on private insurers consumes one-third of private health spending while the single payer Medicare system has administrative costs of less than 5%; and

WHEREAS U.S. hospitals spend 24.3% of their budgets on billing and administration while hospitals under Canada's single payer system spend only 12.9%; and

WHEREAS Harvard researchers estimate that more than \$300 billion could be recovered by replacing private insurance companies with a single public payer, enough to cover the uninsured and to improve coverage for all those who now have only partial coverage; and

WHEREAS entrusting care to profit-oriented firms diverts billions of dollars to outrageous incomes for CEOs and threatens the quality of care; and

WHEREAS The United States National Health Insurance Act (H.R. 676) would assure universal coverage of all medically necessary services, contain costs by slashing bureaucracy, protect the doctor patient relationship, assure patients a completely free choice of doctors, and allow physicians a free choice of practice settings; and

WHEREAS most polls show that the majority of Americans support universal healthcare; and

WHEREAS, as of the date of this resolution, the majority of American physicians (59%) believe that Single Payer is the best method of securing universal healthcare; and

WHEREAS The United States National Health Insurance Act (H.R. 676) will guarantee every mayor that all residents and employees of his/her city will be fully covered for healthcare and save millions of taxpayer dollars now spent on premiums to provide less than full health insurance coverage for government employees,

NOW THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors expresses its support for The United States National Health Insurance Act (H.R. 676), and calls upon federal legislators to work towards its immediate enactment.