

**RESOLUTION 68 – 06A**

**Title: Single-Payer Health Insurance**

**Introduced by: James C. Mitchiner, MD, for the Washtenaw County Delegation**

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**Referred to: Reference Committee A**

**House Action: Referred to the Board for Study**

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**Whereas, there were approximately 45 million Americans without health insurance in 2004, and**

**Whereas, the consequences of being uninsured include delayed or denied access to care, increased morbidity, prolonged hospitalization, premature death and social stigma, and**

**Whereas, incremental adjustments to the health care delivery system in this country through public programs to serve the uninsured (e.g., Medicaid and SCHIP) and limited voluntary activities in the private sector, have failed to reduce the number of uninsured, and**

**Whereas, the recently Board-approved Future of Medicine report cites universal coverage as an important theme for improving health, and**

**Whereas, non-profit and for-profit health plans in the private sector are relatively inefficient, with administrative costs of approximately 13 percent and 19 percent of total annual expenses, respectively, and**

**Whereas, the most popular and most economically efficient health insurance plan in the United States is Medicare, a single-payer, government-run and universal access program that serves 42 million beneficiaries, including seniors, those with end stage renal disease, and qualified individuals with chronic disabilities, and**

**Whereas, the much-heralded problems with the single-payer health care delivery system in Canada are in large part attributable to chronic under-funding at the federal level, and**

**Whereas, the most recent polls show that 37 percent of the general public, and up to 61 percent of physicians, are supportive of a national single-payer health care system, and**

**Whereas, single-payer health insurance is supported by large national organizations such as the American Public Health Association, the American Medical Women's Association, the National Medical Association and the American Medical Students Association, and**

**Whereas, Michigan has the reputation of being a progressive state, with an interest in improving health care delivery and access for all of its citizens, regardless of age, sex, income or employment status; therefore be it**

**RESOLVED: That MSMS support the adoption of a single-payer health insurance program in the United States; and be it further**

**RESOLVED: That MSMS explore opportunities to partner with other like-minded organizations that favor the single-payer approach to providing health insurance to all Americans.**

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**WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE**