

RESOLUTION 14-07A

Title: Single Payer System
Introduced by: Harvey W. Halberstadt, MD, Oakland County
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Referred to: Reference Committee A
House Action: Tabled

Whereas, the spiraling costs of the broken health system in the United States are anticipated to exceed the profits of the Fortune 500 companies by next year, and

Whereas, General Motors states that health care costs are hindering its competitiveness, and

Whereas, private insurers seek to insure the healthy and not the sick, and

Whereas, a study done by the Lewin Group, a health care consulting firm, estimates that administrative costs consumes 20 percent of total health care expenditures nation-wide, and

Whereas, there is an enormous amount of paperwork required of American doctors and hospitals that does not exist in countries like Canada and Britain, and

Whereas, the United States spent for health care an average of \$6,102 a person in 2004 while Canada spent \$3,165 a person, France \$3,150, Australia \$3,120, and Britain \$2,205, according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development as cited in the New York Times, on December 31, 2006, and

Whereas, a single payer system allows patients to choose their own doctors with the government providing the insurance that encouraged competition among providers, and

Whereas, with a single payer system the insurer pays doctors, pharmacists, and hospitals at a preset rate allowing patients to elect being out of the system, and

Whereas, Cecil Wilson, MD, Board Chair of the American Medical Association, wrote in a March 12 letter to the editor of U.S. News & World Report that the AMA plan to cover the uninsured calls for government tax credits, based on a sliding scale related to income, to purchase health insurance, and

Whereas, the AMA proposes a plan which keeps the broken health system unchanged by transferring billions of dollars from tax credits for employer health plans to tax credits for mandated health policies purchased by individuals with vouchers being given to the poor, and

Whereas, not only does this proposed system of health care retain the inefficient health system, but it adds to the existing onerous paperwork by adding three new bureaucracies, one to police individuals to make sure that they buy insurance, one to determine if they are poor enough to receive it, and one to make sure that they do not discriminate against the unwell; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That MSMS oppose the AMA proposed health care system and that MSMS support a single payer system.

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE