

RESOLUTION 90-08A

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: Adopted as Amended

Whereas, there were approximately 47 million Americans without health insurance in 2006,¹ 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 that serve the uninsured (e.g., Medicaid and SCHIP) and limited voluntary activities in the private sector, have failed to reduce the number of uninsured,¹ and

Whereas, the MSMS Future of Medicine report cites universal coverage as an important theme for improving health in Michigan,² and

Whereas, non-profit and for-profit health plans in the private sector are inefficient, with administrative costs of approximately 13 percent and 19 percent of total annual expenses, respectively,³ and

Whereas, the most popular and most economically efficient health insurance plan in the United States is Medicare, a single-payer, government-financed, universal access program that serves 44 million beneficiaries, including seniors, those with end stage renal disease, and qualified individuals with chronic disabilities,⁴ 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 over 60 percent of the general public,^{5,6} and up to 64 percent of physicians⁷ 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 College of Physicians, the American Public Health Association, the American Medical Women's Association, the National Medical Association, and the American Medical Students Association; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That MSMS develop a series of forums over the next year including one at the 2009 House of Delegates to explore the implications of a single payer system and provide membership with definitions, research, studies, and ethical considerations.

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE

¹ US Bureau of the Census, Health Insurance Coverage: 2006. Available at: <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/hlthins/hlthin06/hlth06asc.html>

² Michigan State Medical Society, Future of Medicine Report. Available at: http://www.msms.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Reports_and_Summaries1&CONTENTID=3611&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm

³ Woolhandler S, Campbell T, Himmelstein DU. Costs of health care administration in the United States and Canada. *N Engl J Med* 2003;349:768-75.

⁴ Geyman J. Myths as barriers to HC reform in the United States, *Intl J Health Services*, 33:315-329.

⁵ CNN Opinion Research Corporation, May 4-6, 2007

⁶ Catholic Healthcare West. Americans anxious about their health security, May 9, 2007

⁷ Albers JM. Lathrop BP. Allison KC. Oberg CN. Hart JF. Single-payer, health savings accounts, or managed care? Minnesota physicians' perspectives. *Minnesota Medicine*. 2007;90:36-40.