

**RESOLUTION 97-08A**

**Title: National Health Insurance-Single Payer System**

**Introduced by: H. Richard Henderson, MD, Wayne County**

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**Referred to: Reference Committee A**

**House Action: No Action**

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**Whereas, the number of Americans uninsured is in excess of 46.6 million and millions more are underinsured, and**

**Whereas, physicians have a moral imperative to advocate for a health care system in which all Americans have access to affordable health care, and**

**Whereas, business is increasingly withdrawing coverage from employees, according to census data at [www.census.gov/hhes/www/cpstc/cps\\_table\\_creator.html](http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/cpstc/cps_table_creator.html), and**

**Whereas, illness and medical bills contribute to 50 percent of all United States bankruptcies, affecting more than two million Americans annually, according to a study titled Illness and Injury as Contributors to Bankruptcy in the February 2, 2005, edition of Health Affairs Web Exclusive, and**

**Whereas, the United States spends twice the amount per capita on health care as industrialized nations that provide comprehensive coverage to all citizens with Canada at \$3,326, Denmark at \$3,108, Finland at \$2,331, France at \$3,374, Germany at \$3,287, Sweden at \$2,918, Switzerland at \$4,177, United Kingdom at \$2,724, and the United States at \$6,401, according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development website at [www.oecd.org](http://www.oecd.org), and**

**Whereas, universal health insurance would guarantee payment for all patients treated, and**

**Whereas, 31 percent of health spending is consumed by an unnecessary, wasteful administrative bureaucracy, according to a study titled "Costs of Health Administration in the U.S. and Canada" in the September 21, 2003, New England Journal of Medicine, and**

**Whereas, a single source government health insurance, i.e. Medicare, would reduce the vast sums of money spent on administrative costs, and**

**Whereas, the Institute of Medicine identified universal health care coverage as the first step for insuring the health of all Americans and called on the federal government to reach this goal by 2010, and**

**Whereas, the American College of Physicians has recommended a single payer system as an alternative to a pluralistic system as a provision for universal health insurance coverage, and**

**Whereas, on July 30, 1965, Congress passed the first Medicare bill, and Medicare has become one of the most popular and successful federal programs ensuring access to health care for this country's senior citizens; therefore be it**

**RESOLVED: That MSMS express its support for universal access to comprehensive, affordable health care through a single-payer financing mechanism; and be it further**

**RESOLVED: That the Michigan Delegation to the AMA ask the AMA to express its support for universal access to comprehensive, affordable health care through a single-payer financing mechanism.**

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