

RESOLUTION 63-09A

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3  
4 **Title:** Single-Payer Health Insurance  
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6 **Introduced by:** James C. Mitchiner, MD, for the Washtenaw County Delegation  
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8 **Original Author:** James C. Mitchiner, MD  
9  
10 **Referred to:** Reference Committee A  
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12 **House Action:** Disapproved  
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14  
15 **Whereas, there were 45.6 million individuals without health insurance in**  
16 **2007,<sup>1</sup> and**

17  
18 **Whereas, the consequences of being uninsured include delayed or denied**  
19 **access to care, increased morbidity, prolonged hospitalization, premature death**  
20 **and social stigma, and**

21  
22 **Whereas, non-profit and for-profit health plans in the private sector are**  
23 **inefficient, with administrative costs of approximately 13 percent and 19 percent**  
24 **of total annual expenses, respectively,<sup>2</sup> and**

25  
26 **Whereas, incremental adjustments to the health care delivery system in this**  
27 **country through public programs that serve the uninsured (e.g., Medicaid and**  
28 **SCHIP) and limited voluntary activities in the private sector, have failed to reduce**  
29 **the number of uninsured,<sup>1</sup> and**

30  
31 **Whereas, the MSMS *Future of Medicine* report cites universal coverage as**  
32 **an important theme for improving health in Michigan,<sup>3</sup> and**

33  
34 **Whereas, single-payer health insurance is a method of financing universal**  
35 **coverage, using *private* hospitals and *private* physicians, unlike “socialized**  
36 **medicine,” which relies on government-owned hospitals and government-**  
37 **employed physicians,<sup>4</sup> and**

38  
39 **Whereas, the most popular and most economically efficient health**  
40 **insurance plan in the United States is Medicare, a single-payer, government-**  
41 **financed, universal access program that serves 44 million beneficiaries, including**  
42 **seniors, those with end-stage renal disease, and qualified individuals with chronic**  
43 **disabilities,<sup>5</sup> and**

44  
45 **Whereas, the much-heralded problems with the single-payer health care**  
46 **delivery system in Canada are in large part attributable to chronic under-funding**  
47 **(relative to American health care funding), and**

48  
49 **Whereas, most recent polls show that about 60 percent of the general**  
50 **public<sup>6,7</sup> and about 60 percent of physicians<sup>8,9</sup> are supportive of a national single-**  
51 **payer health care system, and**

52           Whereas, single-payer health insurance is supported by large national  
53 organizations such as the American College of Physicians, the American Public  
54 Health Association, the American Medical Women’s Association, the National  
55 Medical Association, and the American Medical Students Association; therefore  
56 be it

57  
58           **RESOLVED:** That MSMS support the adoption of a single-payer health  
59 insurance program in the United States; and be it further

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61           **RESOLVED:** That MSMS explore opportunities to partner with other like-  
62 minded organizations that favor the single-payer approach to providing health  
63 insurance to all Americans.  
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66 **WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE**

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<sup>1</sup> US Bureau of the Census, Health Insurance Coverage: 2007. Available at:  
<http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/hlthins/hlthin07/hlth07asc.html>

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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](http://www.msms.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Reports_and_Summaries1&CONTENTID=3611&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm)

<sup>4</sup> Physicians for a National Health Program.  
[http://student.pnhp.org/docs/facts\\_and\\_myths.pdf](http://student.pnhp.org/docs/facts_and_myths.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> Geyman J. Myths as barriers to health care reform in the United States, *Intl J Health Services* 2007; 33:315-29.

<sup>6</sup> PollingReport.com, Health Policy. Available at:  
<http://www.pollingreport.com/health3.htm>

<sup>7</sup> CBS/New York Times poll, January 11-15, 2009. Available at:  
[http://www.nytimes.com/packages/pdf/politics/20090117\\_obamapoll.pdf](http://www.nytimes.com/packages/pdf/politics/20090117_obamapoll.pdf) (scroll to page 26)

<sup>8</sup> 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.

<sup>9</sup> Carroll AE, Ackerman RT. Support for national health insurance among U.S. physicians: 5 years later. *Ann Int Med* 2008;148:566.