

RESOLUTION 44-10A

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3 **Title: Single-Payer Health Insurance**  
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5 **Introduced by: James C. Mitchiner, MD, for the Washtenaw County Delegation**  
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7 **Original Author: James C. Mitchiner, MD**  
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9 **Referred to; Reference Committee B**  
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11 **House Action: Disapproved**  
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14 **Whereas, there were 46.3 million individuals without health insurance in**  
15 **2008,<sup>1</sup> and an additional 25 million who were underinsured,<sup>2</sup> and**  
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17 **Whereas, the consequences of being uninsured include delayed or denied**  
18 **access to care, increased morbidity, prolonged hospitalization, premature death,**  
19 **and social stigma, and**  
20

21 **Whereas, non-profit and for-profit health plans in the private sector are**  
22 **inefficient, with administrative costs of approximately 13 percent and 19 percent**  
23 **of total annual expenses, respectively,<sup>3</sup> and**  
24

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

30 **Whereas, the MSMS *Future of Medicine* report cites universal coverage as**  
31 **an important theme for improving health in Michigan,<sup>4</sup> and**  
32

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

38 **Whereas, single-payer health insurance is a method of financing universal**  
39 **health care provided by private hospitals and private physicians, unlike**  
40 **“socialized medicine,” which relies on government-owned hospitals and**  
41 **government-employed physicians,<sup>6</sup> and**  
42

43 **Whereas, polls show that about 60 percent of the general public<sup>7,8</sup> and**  
44 **about 60 percent of physicians<sup>9,10</sup> are supportive of a national single-payer health**  
45 **care system, and**

46           **Whereas, single-payer health insurance is supported by large national**  
47 **organizations such as the American College of Physicians, the American Public**  
48 **Health Association, the American Medical Women’s Association, the National**  
49 **Medical Association, and the American Medical Students Association; therefore**  
50 **be it**

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

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

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<sup>1</sup> US Bureau of the Census, Health Insurance Coverage: 2008. Available at:  
<http://www.census.gov/prod/2009pubs/p60-236.pdf> (scroll to page 27)

<sup>2</sup> Schoen C, Collins SR, Kriss JL, Doty MM. How many are underinsured? Trends among U.S. adults, 2003 and 2007. *Health Affairs* 2008;27:w298-w309.

<sup>3</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>4</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) (scroll to page 5)

<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> 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>7</sup> PollingReport.com, Health Policy. Available at: <http://www.pollingreport.com/health3.htm>

<sup>8</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>9</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>10</sup> Carroll AE, Ackerman RT. Support for national health insurance among U.S. physicians: 5 years later. *Ann Int Med* 2008;148:566.