

RESOLUTION REGARDING HEALTH CARE EMERGENCY GUARANTEE ACT

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 emergency calls for bold and timely action from the federal government,

action to address both the public health and the economic effects of this pandemic;

WHEREAS, only the federal government has the capacity and authority to meet the needs of our

people during this health care and economic crisis. State governments cannot run a deficit, and their

revenue depends on taxes that are drastically declining during the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, this crisis has shown how the health of each individual is connected to the health of their community. To protect each, all must be able to get needed care (when they need it) without

financial worry; and

WHEREAS, the pressures for self-rationing created by deductibles, co-insurance, and point of service co-pays work against people choosing to get the healthcare from which they and their communities could benefit; and

WHEREAS, sudden mass unemployment of tens of millions sharply exposes how irrational and wrong it is for health care to depend on insurance tied to jobs that can be quickly lost either directly

or indirectly to disease (as of April 30th, over 30 million Americans had filed first time claims over a 6

week period, over 18% of workers in the country: CNN 4/30);

WHEREAS, the millions of heroic low wage workers with poor quality insurance, or none at all, (including home care and nursing home workers, grocery workers, those who deliver our food and

medicines, and the farm workers who grow that food) need coverage now to protect their health and

the health of those they serve; and

(WHEREAS, because they have higher rates of uninsured and underinsured populations, minorities,

low income, immigrant, and other vulnerable communities are suffering at the highest rates with health, mortality, and economic issues)

WHEREAS, too much of the federal bailout money during this pandemic has gone to those who do

not need it, including large profitable corporations, and not enough has gone to those who need it.

There is no reason to subsidize health insurance companies – instead, healthcare providers and their patients need some financial help; and

WHEREAS, Rep. Pramila Jayapal and Sen. Bernie Sanders have proposed the Health Care Emergency Guarantee Act (HCEGA) that addresses all of the above issues; and

WHEREAS, the HCEGA is non-disruptive in that it does not interfere with health insurance that anyone currently has, it uses the existing Medicare infrastructure to cover those who are or become

uninsured during the pandemic, it enhances both private and public insurance benefits by having Medicare act as a secondary insurance to cover out-of-pocket costs, it provides help

to all residents, and it does not allow private health insurers to skim off the top of these federal benefits;

THEREFORE, The Democratic Party of Marion County Resolves:

- 1) To support the Health Care Emergency Guarantee Act (HCEGA) (Sanders S-3790 and Jayapal HR 6906.
- 2) To encourage people in House District 5 to contact their Representative Kurt Schrader to urge him to support the HCEGA.
- 3) To thank Senators Merkley and Wyden and Representatives Bonamici, DeFazio and Blumenauer for supporting this bill.
4. To ask Representative Schrader to join the rest of the Democrats in the Oregon congressional delegation in supporting this bill.

Links to the text of the proposed Health Care Emergency Guarantee Act –

HR 6906 <https://www.congress.gov/116/bills/hr6906/BILLS-116hr6906ih.pdf>

S 3790 <https://www.congress.gov/116/bills/s3790/BILLS-116s3790is.pdf>