



SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

Legislative Summary

Res 31774

Record No.: Res 31774

Type: Resolution (Res)

Status: Adopted

Version: 2

Ord. no:

In Control: City Clerk

File Created: 09/18/2017

Final Action: 09/21/2017

Title: A RESOLUTION expressing the Seattle City Council's support for a single-payer healthcare system ("Medicare for All"), supporting United States Senate Bill 1804, and requesting the support of Washington's U.S. Senators.

Notes:

Date
Filed with City Clerk: 9/21/2017

Mayor's Signature:

Sponsors: Sawant

Vetoed by Mayor:

Veto Overridden:

Veto Sustained:

Attachments: Mayor's Letter on Returning Resolution Unsigned

Drafter: Emilia.Sanchez@seattle.gov

Filing Requirements/Dept Action:

History of Legislative File

Legal Notice Published: Yes No

Ver- sion:	Acting Body:	Date:	Action:	Sent To:	Due Date:	Return Date:	Result:
1	City Clerk	09/18/2017	sent for review	Council President's Office			
	Action Text: The Resolution (Res) was sent for review. to the Council President's Office						
	Notes:						
1	Council President's Office	09/18/2017	sent for review	Full Council			
	Action Text: The Resolution (Res) was sent for review. to the Full Council						
	Notes:						
1	Full Council	09/18/2017	referred	Full Council			
	Action Text: The Resolution (Res) was referred. to the Full Council						
	Notes:						
1	Full Council	09/18/2017	adopted as amended				Pass
	Action Text: The Motion carried, the Resolution (Res) was adopted as amended by the following vote, and the President signed the Resolution:						
	Notes: <u>ACTION 1:</u>						

Motion was made and duly seconded to adopt Resolution 31774.

ACTION 2:

By unanimous consent, Council Rule III.A.6, relating to amendments presented to the Full Council, was suspended to allow consideration of amendments to Resolution 31774.

ACTION 3:

Motion was made by Councilmember Bagshaw and seconded to amend Resolution 31774, by amending Sections 2 and 4, as shown in the underlined and strike through language below:

Section 2. The Seattle City Council supports S.1804 "A bill to establish a Medicare-for-all health insurance program" and H.R.676 "Expanded & Improved Medicare For All Act." The Seattle City Council requests the Seattle Office of Intergovernmental Relations convey this support to the Seattle Congressional Delegation. ~~Congressmembers in the United States Senate and House of Representatives.~~

Section 4. The Seattle City Council urge the Seattle Congressional Delegation to cosponsor S.1804 and to support other future legislative efforts to improve access for health care for all. ~~requests that Senators Maria Cantwell and Patty Murray support "Medicare for All" by cosponsoring S.1804.~~

ACTION 4:

Motion was made by Councilmember González, duly seconded and carried, to further amend the proposed amendment in Action 3, Section 4, as shown in the underlined and strike through language below:

Section 4. The Seattle City Council urges the Senators Maria Cantwell and Patty Murray and the entire Seattle Congressional Delegation to cosponsor S.1804 and to support other future legislative efforts to improve access for health care for all.

ACTION 5:

The Motion is Action 3 was restated as amended and the Motion carried.

ACTION 6:

Motion was made and duly seconded to adopt Resolution 31774 as amended.

In Favor: 7 Councilmember Bagshaw, Councilmember Burgess, Councilmember
González , Councilmember Johnson, Councilmember Juarez,
Councilmember O'Brien, Councilmember Sawant

Opposed: 0

- | | | | | |
|---|---------------------|--|------------------------------------|------------|
| 2 | City Clerk | 09/21/2017 | submitted for
Mayor's signature | Mayor |
| 2 | Mayor | 09/21/2017 | returned | City Clerk |
| 2 | Mayor | 09/21/2017 | returned unsigned | |
| | Action Text: | The Resolution (Res) was returned unsigned. | | |
| | Notes: | | | |
| 2 | City Clerk | 09/21/2017 | attested by City Clerk | |
| | Action Text: | The Resolution (Res) was attested by City Clerk. | | |
| | Notes: | | | |
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CITY OF SEATTLE

RESOLUTION 31774

A RESOLUTION expressing the Seattle City Council’s support for a single-payer healthcare system (“Medicare for All”), supporting United States Senate Bill 1804, and requesting the support of Washington’s U.S. Senators.

WHEREAS, in the United Nations’ Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 25 designates healthcare to be a human right, stating: “Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care”; and

WHEREAS, a public discussion about healthcare began in early 2017 as President Donald Trump and congressional Republicans attempted to repeal the Affordable Care Act, which the Congressional Budget Office estimated would have resulted in 22 million additional people losing healthcare coverage; and

WHEREAS, despite improvements made by the Affordable Care Act, 28.1 million people in the United States remained uninsured, and many more underinsured, in the first three months of 2017, according to an August 2017 survey published by the Centers for Disease Control’s National Center for Health Statistics; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Office of the Insurance Commissioner reported in February 2016 that 6.7 percent of people in King County are uninsured; and

WHEREAS, May 2017 studies published in *The Lancet* show that the for-profit healthcare and health insurance system in the United States costs \$9,237 per capita, more than in any other country in the world; and

WHEREAS, a “Medicare for All” healthcare system can provide healthcare to all Americans without the waste of for-profit insurance companies; and

1 WHEREAS, on September 13, 2017, Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders introduced United States
2 Senate Bill 1804 (“S. 1804”), titled “A bill to establish a Medicare-for-all health
3 insurance program,” with the cosponsorship of 16 other Senators; and

4 WHEREAS, Senator Sanders previously introduced similar Senate bills in 2011 and 2013 with
5 no cosponsors; and

6 WHEREAS, United States House Bill 676, the “Expanded and Improved Medicare for All Act,”
7 currently has 119 cosponsors (including both House members from Seattle’s
8 congressional districts, Representatives Pramila Jayapal and Adam Smith), which is more
9 cosponsors than any similar bill has received in previous years; and

10 WHEREAS, neither of Washington State’s United States Senators, Senators Maria Cantwell and
11 Patty Murray, has yet cosponsored S. 1804 to support Medicare for All; and

12 WHEREAS, the future of healthcare in the United States in general, and Medicare for All in
13 particular, is being hotly debated in political circles, in the media, and by the general
14 public; and

15 WHEREAS, if the effort to push for Medicare for All at the U.S. federal level runs into
16 obstacles, activists will need to build movements, possibly to first establish it at the state
17 level, similar to how movements in the province of Saskatchewan led to Canada’s single-
18 payer healthcare system; and

19 WHEREAS, it is incumbent on the Seattle City Council to speak out in this debate in defense of
20 Seattleites who are uninsured, underinsured, or burdened by medical bills; NOW,

21 THEREFORE,

22 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE THAT:**

1 Section 1. The Seattle City Council declares that healthcare is a human right. The Seattle
2 City Council supports the public single-payer health insurance program commonly referred to as
3 “Medicare for All.”

4 Section 2. The Seattle City Council supports United States Senate Bill 1804 (“S. 1804”),
5 “A bill to establish a Medicare-for-all health insurance program,” and United States House Bill
6 676, the “Expanded and Improved Medicare for All Act.” The Seattle City Council requests that
7 the Seattle Office of Intergovernmental Relations convey this support to the Seattle
8 Congressional Delegation.

9 Section 3. The Seattle City Council requests that state lawmakers in Olympia investigate
10 forming a statewide single-payer health insurance program if federal lawmakers fail to do so.

11 Section 4. The Seattle City Council urges Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell and
12 the entire Seattle Congressional Delegation to cosponsor S.1804 and to support other future
13 legislative efforts to improve access for health care for all.

1 Adopted by the City Council the 18th day of September, 2017,
2 and signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this 18th day of
3 September, 2017.

4 

5 President _____ of the City Council

6 The Mayor concurred the _____ day of _____, 2017.

7 **Returned Unsigned
by Mayor**

8 _____, Mayor

9 Filed by me this 21st day of September, 2017.

10 

11 Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

12 (Seal)



City of Seattle
Mayor Tim Burgess

September 21, 2017

Monica Martinez Simmons
Seattle City Clerk
600 4th Avenue, 3rd Floor
Seattle, WA 98124

Dear Ms. Martinez Simmons,

I support the content of Resolution 31774 and voted for it as a member of the City Council on September 18, 2017. The City Attorney's Office has advised us, to preserve the separation of the branches of City government, not to have a person that voted for the passage of legislation as a Councilmember sign it as Mayor. Therefore, I am returning Resolution 31774.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TBurgess', written in a cursive style.

Tim Burgess
Mayor of Seattle