

CITY OF SEATTLE

RESOLUTION _____

..title

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

..body

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 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 the 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% 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 for all 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 S.1804, titled “A bill to establish a Medicare-for-all health insurance
3 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 resolution H.R.676 titled, “Expanded & Improved Medicare
7 For All Act” currently has 119 cosponsors (including both members of Congress from
8 congressional districts in Seattle, Representatives Pramila Jayapal and Adam Smith)
9 which is more cosponsors than any previous year it has been introduced; and

10 WHEREAS, neither of Washington State’s United States Senators, Senators Maria Cantwell and
11 Patty Murray, have 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 regular people;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, similar to the movements in Canada that won a single payer healthcare system
16 starting in the province of Saskatchewan, if the effort to push for Medicare for All at the
17 US federal level runs into obstacles, activists will need to build movements, possibly to
18 first win it at state level; and

19 WHEREAS, it is incumbent on the Seattle City Council to speak out in this debate in defense of
20 un- and under-insured Seattleites and Seattleites 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 S.1804 “A bill to establish a Medicare-for-
5 all health insurance program” and H.R.676 “Expanded & Improved Medicare For All Act.” The
6 Seattle City Council requests the Seattle Office of Intergovernmental Relations convey this
7 support to- ~~the Seattle Congressional Delegation. Congressmembers in the United States Senate~~
8 ~~and House of Representatives.~~

9 Section 3. The Seattle City Council requests 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 ~~urge the Seattle Congressional Delegation to~~
12 ~~cosponsor S.1804 and to support other future legislative efforts to improve access for health care~~
13 ~~for all. . requests that Senators Maria Cantwell and Patty Murray support “Medicare for All” by~~
14 ~~cosponsoring S.1804.~~

1 Adopted by the City Council the _____ day of _____, 2017,

2 and signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this _____ day of

3 _____, 2017.

4 _____

5 President _____ of the City Council

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

7 _____

8 Edward B. Murray, Mayor

9 Filed by me this _____ day of _____, 2017.

10 _____

11 Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

12 (Seal)