

## RESOLUTION 16 -13

### **Resolution Supporting a Universal, Single-Payer Health Care Program**

WHEREAS, healthcare is a right and government has a moral obligation to provide access to necessary health care for every citizen, regardless of the ability to pay;

WHEREAS, most Democrats generally approve of the Affordable Care Act [ACA] as an important achievement in health care, estimated to reduce the number of uninsured people by 22 million by these two provisions alone: expanding Medicaid eligibility and offering subsidies for private insurance sold in the exchanges;

WHEREAS, at the time the ACA was signed into law in 2010, the new law would still leave about 18 million, or 6 percent of the population, without any coverage at all;

WHEREAS, although an additional 11 million people became eligible for and were able to enroll in Medicaid under the ACA, another four million remain uninsured because their states refused to expand eligibility;

WHEREAS, the United States now spends per capita two and a half times as much on health care as the average for Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development countries, but that does not buy it better health outcomes;

WHEREAS, under the ACA private insurance companies are able to set their own premium prices: premiums in the Affordable Care Act marketplaces are high and projected to increase anywhere from 6.8 to 16.5 percent in 2016;

WHEREAS, high-deductible and other "Swiss cheese" insurance policies have become the norm, resulting in increasing out-of-pocket co-pays and deductibles;

WHEREAS, obstacles to care, from arbitrary "prior authorization" requirements to restricted panels, regularly prevent people from receiving the care they need;

WHEREAS, nationwide polls document that a majority of the general public supports single-payer;

WHEREAS, the ACA provides no effective controls over rising costs;

WHEREAS, a single-payer health plan that replaces private insurance and employment-based coverage with a publicly funded single-payer system could be achieved by expanding coverage of the existing Medicare program;

WHEREAS, "Until we begin to treat health care as a social good instead of a market commodity, there is simply no way to make health care universal, comprehensive, and affordable;"<sup>1</sup>

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Clallam County Democrats call on the Washington State Democratic Party to urge the Washington Democratic Congressional Delegation to work towards a universal, single-payer national health care program.

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<sup>1</sup>Marcia Angell. "Health: The Right Diagnosis and the Wrong Treatment," *New York Review of Books*. April 23, 2015 issue]

*Passed at the General Membership Meeting on 5/28/2016*