

**Resolution to AFL-CIO 2009 Convention
for Single-Payer Health Care – HR 676**

Submitted by (Labor Body name- Date)

Our Nation is in crisis. People everywhere are experiencing the effects of economic dislocation and insecurity. The absence of a universal, comprehensive, single-payer health care system is a prominent factor in how desperate the situation is becoming for countless Americans. The Labor Movement has a special responsibility to aggressively address the social injustice of a broken health care system and lead the attack on the institutional causes of its perpetuation. Health care should be a right, not a privilege.

Whereas: the U.S. health system continues to treat health care as a commodity distributed according to ability to pay, rather than as a human right to be dispersed according to medical need. This has resulted in more than 49 million people in the U.S. not having any health insurance and another 40 million who have inadequate coverage with high co-pays and deductibles, with many others at risk of losing coverage as the economy spirals downward. A recent study has shown that 62% of bankruptcies in 2007 were related to problems involving health care. It is certain to be higher today.

Whereas: no union today can engage in collective bargaining without facing a demand or hard choices regarding health care coverage in our contracts. The disproportionate costs of health insurance at the bargaining table have significantly depressed our member's wages despite the productivity gains their work has produced. 'Reform' proposals which include a continuation of for-profit insurance companies, whose interests are counter to and often destructive of ours, will not control costs or improve the international competitiveness of U.S. based employers.

Whereas: HR 676 would end deductibles and co-payments, and provide an effective mechanism for controlling skyrocketing costs while covering all in America. And, HR 676 would save billions annually by eliminating the administrative burdens, overhead and profits and apply those savings to expanded and improved coverage for all.

Whereas: A Single-Payer health care system will provide a major stimulus to the economy, create millions of new jobs, positively increase the national GDP, and create billions in new tax revenues; and

Whereas: hundreds of union organizations, including 39 State Federations and numerous CLC's, have endorsed HR 676 and many have and continue to vigorously advocate for its enactment.

Therefore be it resolved, that the AFL-CIO adopt this resolution and endorse HR 676, the "United States National Health Care Act;" and that the Federation and all its affiliates play a leading role in mobilizing broad public and political support for single-payer health care to meet the needs of our members, their families, and all in America.

On _____, 2009, the delegates of _____

Approved the above resolution for submission to the AFL-CIO 2009 Convention and respectfully submit it to:

Secretary-Treasurer Richard L. Trumka
AFL-CIO
815 16th Street NW
Washington, DC 20006

Name & Title _____ Date _____, 2009

Signature _____