

Draft Resolution
**Continuing the Fight for Healthcare Justice and Supporting the Work of
The Labor Campaign for Single Payer Healthcare**

Whereas: Healthcare in the United States remains a national disgrace with the highest costs in the world, ranking 28th in infant mortality and 24th in life expectancy with nearly 30 million Americans having no coverage at all and millions more having such meager coverage that a single major medical event will push them into bankruptcy; and

Whereas: These high costs have helped to sustain a climate of concessionary bargaining, pushing down wages, causing bitter strikes and lockouts, triggering attacks on public sector workers and retirees and shifting more and more of the costs onto the backs of workers; and

Whereas: All other industrialized countries provide comprehensive coverage to all citizens as a fundamental human right, putting U.S. manufacturing employers and workers at a global competitive disadvantage; and

Whereas: The Affordable Care Act (ACA) has been supported as a preliminary step because it has improved access to healthcare for millions of Americans and these advances must be defended against those who seek to undermine and dismantle the entire social safety net that working class families rely on to provide a modicum of security; and

Whereas: Nonetheless, under the ACA up to 30 million will remain uninsured and profit will continue to drive healthcare policy while posing significant challenges to our unions' ability to negotiate decent coverage for their members and families by increasing "race to the bottom" pressures through tiered benefits and the so-called "Cadillac" excise tax; and

Whereas: A single-payer, Medicare for All healthcare program would be a powerful alternative to the austerity policies being foisted on America's workers because economists have determined that the entire federal budget deficit would be eliminated if the U.S. spent per capita on healthcare what any other industrialized nation that treats healthcare as a human right spends; and

Whereas: The AFL-CIO, at its 2017 Convention, affirmed labor's longstanding goal to make quality healthcare a basic right in the United States by moving expeditiously toward a single-payer system like Medicare for All; and,

Whereas: Over 1,000 national regional and local unions, state labor federations and central labor councils have endorsed HR 676—the "Expanded and Improved Medicare for All Act"—which has over 120 cosponsors in the House of Representatives; and

Whereas: Bernie Sanders' Senate Bill 1804—the "Medicare for All Act"—has 16 co-sponsors and would guarantee healthcare to every American; and

Whereas: The Labor Campaign for Single Payer, launched in 2009 to advocate within the labor movement for comprehensive, single-payer national healthcare reform, is calling for the labor movement to lead the fight for healthcare justice and is supported by 13 national unions, 9 state labor federations and dozens of local and regional unions; now

Therefore Be It Resolved: That _____ joins with our sisters and brothers around the country in the Labor Campaign for Single Payer to advocate, educate and organize for healthcare justice and for a single-payer system that will make healthcare a birthright for everyone in America, through a publicly financed healthcare system that provides comprehensive benefits and a single standard of care in a system where healthcare decisions are made by patients and their caregivers not by corporate and government bureaucrats and where scarce healthcare resources are not squandered by profiteers, marketing and excessive administrative costs; and

Therefore Be It Resolved: That _____ joins the Labor Campaign for Single Payer and encourages all of its affiliates to do so and that _____ will embark on a systematic program to educate its members about the nature of the healthcare crisis, the importance of the single-payer solution, its role in relieving the liability for retiree healthcare costs and in reducing the cost of coverage for all workers and their families; and

Be It Finally Resolved: That _____ supports and urges our federal and state legislators to enact legislation that embodies the principles of a national single payer system and that we will urge our union and community allies to make such legislation a priority in all state and federal electoral efforts.