

10 **A RESOLUTION CONCERNING**
20 **UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE**

30 **WHEREAS:** Well over 40 million Americans are without health insurance and many more are under-
40 insured.

50 **WHEREAS:** All industrialized countries in the world, with the lone exception of South Africa, have
60 universal health care.

70 **WHEREAS:** Our current health care system places a great and rapidly growing financial burden on
80 individuals, employers and governments.

90 **WHEREAS:** Data from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development shows that the
100 U.S. health care system is by far the most expensive in the world. In 1998, an average of
110 \$4,178 per capita was spent on health care in the U.S. The next most expensive country,
120 Switzerland, spent \$2794 per capita on health care. Great Britain spent only \$1491 per
130 capita on health care.

140 **WHEREAS:** The United States spent 13.6% of its GDP on health care in 1998 while other high
150 income countries spent an average of 8.2% according to Organization for Economic
160 Cooperation and Development data.

170 **WHEREAS:** A U.S Government Accountability Office study estimated that if a single payer health
180 insurance system was implemented then the administrative savings alone from changing
190 health care systems would be more than enough to finance health care for all Americans
200 who are currently uninsured. Further, the savings would allow for a reduction or possibly
210 even the elimination of co-payments and deductibles.

220 **WHEREAS:** In a comparison of infant mortality rates done by the Department of Health and Human
230 Services the U.S. ranked 27th among industrialized nations.

240 **WHEREAS:** According to information released by the World Health Organization in 2000, the United
250 States ranks 24th among nations in disability adjusted life expectancy. This means that the
260 United States ranks at the bottom of industrialized nations for life expectancy.

270 **WHEREAS:** Many other high-income countries have universal health care systems that are efficient
280 and provide high quality care.

290 **WHEREAS:** A single-payer health insurance program run by the federal government would have a
greater ability to negotiate low prescription drug prices because of the buying power such a program would have.

300 **WHEREAS:** Health insurance marketing costs and many administrative costs that exist in our current
310 health care system could be eliminated with a single payer system.

320 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** The Maryland Student Legislature urges the United States Congress
330 to abolish all existing government health insurance programs in favor of a single payer
340 universal health insurance program; and,

350 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:** The single payer system be phased in gradually with those who
360 are currently uninsured gaining coverage under this system first. Next, those currently
370 covered by government health insurance would be converted to the new system. Lastly,
380 Americans who currently have private health insurance would gain coverage under the
390 new system.

400 **MANDATES:** Paul G. Pinsky, State Senator
410 Nancy L. Johnson, U.S. Representatative
420 Pete Stark, U.S. Representatative
430 Micheal B. Enzi, U.S. Senator
440 Edward M. Kennedy, U.S. Senator

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