

Three Parks Health Care Resolution 3/11/09

- Whereas: The most cost effective method of delivering health care is through public systems such as Medicare in the USA and similar single payer systems in other countries*;
- Whereas: Administrative costs under Medicare, for example, are less than two percent of expenditures compared to eleven percent in virtually identical for-profit Medicare Advantage plans[^];
- Whereas: The United States spends six times as much on health care administration as the average of all other industrial countries due to private insurance costs of advertising, sales, underwriting, paperwork, and executive salaries;
- Whereas: The profits of private health insurance companies derive from a combination of stock market speculation and charging more in premiums than is paid in benefits;
- Whereas: The New York State Assembly has memorialized Congress to pass Single Payer legislation, H.R. 676;
- Whereas: “Single payer” means:
- Universal health care coverage
 - Doctors, hospitals and other health care providers bill one national publicly administered fund (the single payer) instead of billing thousands of separate insurance companies
 - Health care providers remain in whatever type of practice they are currently employed;
- Whereas: There are plans for national health insurance coming before Congress that range from minimal to total reliance on private for-profit insurance; and
- Whereas: Many polls have shown majority support for a publicly administered system.

Therefore, be it resolved that:

1. Three Parks Independent Democrats supports expanding the role of public health care and minimizing the role of private for-profit health insurance in any new national system.
2. We join the Assembly in supporting The United States National Health Insurance Act (H.R. 676) and urge our representatives in the House and Senate to work to bring the bill out of committee for a fair debate.
3. Should this not happen, we support the inclusion of a public option similar to Medicare in any universal health plan that is adopted.

* *The Case for Public Plan Choice In National Health Reform*. Prof. Jacob S. Hacker. Center For Health, Economic and Family Security. U.C. Berkeley Law School. www.law.berkeley.edu/chefs.htm

[^] *ibid*.