

Resolution in support of single payer/NYHA

WHEREAS too many New Yorkers do not get the health care they need, or face financial hardship to get it;

WHEREAS businesses have experienced increases in the costs of health care benefits for their employees, and many employers are shifting a larger share of the cost of coverage to employees or dropping coverage entirely;

WHEREAS hospitals, health centers, and other providers now experience substantial losses due to providing care that is uncompensated, and Medicaid and Medicare often do not pay rates that are reasonably related to the cost of efficiently providing health care and sufficient to assure adequate and accessible health care services;

WHEREAS individuals often find that they are deprived of affordable care because of decisions by health plans guided by the plans' economic interests rather than individuals' health care needs;

WHEREAS for several years, Assembly Member Dick Gottfried and cosponsors introduced and the Assembly passed the New York Health Act (NYHA), which creates a single payer plan to establish comprehensive universal guaranteed health care coverage and a health care cost control system for all New York State residents, pursuant to which:

- Health benefits will include all benefits covered by Medicare, Medicaid, Child Health Plus, and those mandated under the Affordable Care Act;
- New York State will request that the federal government allow funds from such programs to be incorporated into the new plan;
- Patients will have no deductibles, copayments, or other out-of-pocket payments at the point of service for covered benefits;
- Patients can choose to receive health care services from any participating provider;

WHEREAS a RAND Corporation analysis of the NYHA found that a single-payer system will cost less than the current system overall, while also improving people's lives;

WHEREAS billions of dollars will be saved by eliminating the overhead expenses and profits of commercial insurance and by negotiating lower prices for drugs and medical devices, and health care providers will no longer waste time dealing with insurance companies and can spend more time taking care of our health; and

WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic makes the NYHA more critical now than ever;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Three Parks Independent Democrats calls on the New York State Legislature and Governor Cuomo to pass and sign into law the New York Health Act, A.6058/S.5474.