A RESOLUTION OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE
Resolution # 2020-010
REGARDING HEALTH CARE EMERGENCY GUARANTEE ACT (HCEGA)[HR 6906]

A. WHEREAS the COVID-19 emergency calls for bold and timely action from the federal government, action to address both its public health and the economic impacts, and

B. WHEREAS the federal government has special capacities and authorities to meet the needs of our people during this health care and economic crisis: state governments cannot run a deficit, cannot invoke emergency industrial controls, and their revenue depends on taxes that are drastically reduced, and

C. WHEREAS this crisis has shown how the health of each individual is connected to the health of their community such that to protect the community, all each person must be able to get needed care when they need it without financial worry, and

D. WHEREAS the financial pressures caused by the pandemic often lead to self-rationing of health care due to the costs of deductibles, co-insurance, and point-of-service co-pays, and

E. WHEREAS sudden mass unemployment (over 30 million jobless claims as of April 30th,CNN 4/30)* sharply exposes how irrational it is for health care to depend on insurance that is tied to jobs that can be quickly lost, either directly or indirectly, and

F. WHEREAS the millions of heroic low wage workers with poor quality or no insurance (e.g. home care and nursing home workers, grocery workers, delivery drivers for food and medicine, and farm workers) need immediate transitional health care coverage now to protect them and the health of those they serve, and

G. WHEREAS because minorities, low income, immigrant, and other vulnerable communities are suffering the greater impacts of the pandemic due to higher rates of no- or under-insurance, and

H. WHEREAS a large proportion of federal emergency relief money has gone to entities that do not need it, including large corporations, rather than to health care providers and their patients, and

I. WHEREAS the bicameral Health Care Emergency Guarantee Act (HCEGA)(HR 6906 - Jayapal) was introduced into the Senate on May 20, 2020 as S. 3790 by Senator Bernie Sanders, and

J. WHEREAS the HCEGA is non-disruptive of current health provisions in that:

- It does not interfere with health insurance that anyone currently has,
- It uses the existing Medicare infrastructure to cover those who are or become uninsured,

- It enhances both private and public insurance benefits by having Medicare act as a secondary insurance to cover out-of-pocket costs,
- It provides help to all residents regardless of immigration status, and
- It does not allow private health insurers to skim off the top of these federal benefits:

THEREFORE, The Washington County Democratic Central Committee (WCDCC) Resolves:

1. To support the Health Care Emergency Guarantee Act (HCEGA - HR 6906) proposal.
2. To encourage people to contact their Representative and Senators in Congress, as well *as* other Congressional leaders, to urge them to enact the HCEGA or measures that will have similarly beneficial consequences.
3. To communicate our support to appropriate state and federal political leaders including the Governor, our local legislators, the Director of Oregon Health Authority, and our Congressional delegation.

Resolution Prepared by WCDCC Resolution and Platform Committee; approved June 9, 2020 with a DO PASS recommendation. Passed with minor amendments by WCDCC, October 28, 2020.

Link to a summary of the proposed Health Care Emergency Guarantee Act –

https://www.sanders.senate.gov/download/healthcare-covid-summary?id=C150F60D-E8F5- 4C27-93B0-37D7F9F7BD73&download=1&inline=file

Link to the text of the proposed Health Care Emergency Guarantee Act –

https://www.sanders.senate.gov/download/healthcare-covid-text?id=E0FDBE32-FF41-4367- A9CC-42EE4DFB233C&download=1&inline=file

* As of October, 2020, over 57 million jobless claims had been filed with 14,844,000 still continuing and weekly filings of over 750,000 (Wall Street Journal, October 29, 2020).