Passed: 6-0-2 (White, Swain)

RESOLUTION 94-54

TO SUPPORT STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATION ENACTING SINGLE-PAYER HEALTH INSURANCE

WHEREAS, over 38 million Americans have no health insurance, most of whom work for a living and have children but are not poor enough to qualify for Medicaid; and

WHEREAS, government programs like Medicaid and Medicare extend health care coverage to only a portion of the people who need it, and do not provide complete coverage: Medicaid covers only 35 percent of Americans living below the poverty line, down from 65 percent a decade ago, and Medicare, designed for the elderly and disabled, covers less than half their health costs; and

WHEREAS, 53 million Americans, who have health insurance of some kind, do not have any coverage in event of catastrophic illness; and

WHEREAS, the rest of the insured population, who see co-payments and deductibles skyrocket and, even when covered for catastrophes, still face the possibility of bankruptcy because their coverage is insufficient; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 14 million Americans did not seek needed medical care in 1986 because they could not pay for it; and

WHEREAS, increasing lack of adequate coverage is connected to rapidly rising insurance premiums, which increased by as much as 20 to 30 percent per year during the 1980's; and

WHEREAS, all this defines the dimensions of a serious and growing crisis in the American health care system; and

WHEREAS, it appears the United States Congress will not enact any substantial reform in 1994; and

WHEREAS, the Bloomington City Council notes that the voters of California will, by referendum on November 8, 1994, have a proposal, Proposition 186, which if enacted will establish single-payer universal health insurance in that state and which could be an example for other states and the entire nation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MONROE COUNTY, INDIANA, THAT:

1. This body affirm its support for the principle of a single-payer universal health care system, which would provide health care to everyone at reasonable costs, including physician and hospital visits, drug bills, dental bills, long-term care, and non-discriminatory mental health care, without deductibles and co-payments and which would provide all patients and providers freedom of choice, and

2. This body also support efforts to enact single-payer legislation similar to California Proposition 186 in other states, including Indiana, and in the nation as a whole.

PASSED and ADOPTED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this 2nd day of November, 1994.

Jim Sherman

JIM SHERMAN, President
Bloomington Common Council

SIGNED and APPROVED by me upon this 4th day of November, 1994.

Tomilea Allison

TOMILEA ALLISON, Mayor
City of Bloomington

ATTEST:

Patricia Williams

PATRICIA WILLIAMS, Clerk
City of Bloomington

SYNOPSIS

This resolution, sponsored by Patricia Cole and Anthony Pizzo, supports state and federal legislation enacting Single-Payer Health Insurance. .

Signed copies to:
State / Federal Legislators