City of Bloomington
Office of the Common Council

August 5, 2009

The Honorable Baron P. Hill
223 Cannon Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Hill:

As representatives of the citizens of the City of Bloomington, the Bloomington City Council urges you to support the single-payer health plan as outlined in H.R. 676, *The United States Healthcare Act* (*The Expanded and Improved Medicare for All Act*) and the interim measure of a public option plan as proposed in H.R. 3200 *America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009*. The Bloomington City Council has a long-standing commitment to a policy of universal, single-payer healthcare. In 1994, the Council passed *Resolution 94-54: To Support State and Federal Legislation Enacting Single-Payer Health Insurance.* In 2006, the Council re-iterated its concern with *Resolution 06-16: Supporting State and Federal Legislation Enacting Universal Publicly-Paid Health Insurance.* Federal action to correct the unjust and ineffective nature of our current health care system is long overdue.

Since the Council's first policy statement, the number of people in the U.S. without health insurance grew from 38 million to 46 million. In Monroe County, over 15,000 residents are without health insurance. Most of the uninsured are hard-working citizens holding down two or three jobs. These people live sicker and die younger. To paraphrase Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., this is a form of inequality that is both shocking and inhumane.

In the interest of providing affordable healthcare to *all* Americans, the current H.R. 3200 public option bill is an important step in the right direction. However, it is only a step. Insofar as H.R. 3200 requires that all Americans buy private insurance, it is critical that the measure protect Americans against the weakness of a private system -- namely the extraordinary administrative waste that occasions bankruptcy through co-payments, deductibles and loopholes. We need a plan that makes universal, comprehensive coverage affordable. And while we endorse interim measures to foster greater health security, such as H.R. 3200, we maintain that a single-payer, *Medicare for All*, plan as outlined in H.R. 676, is the most efficient, fair and cost-effective way to expand health care coverage to all Americans.

We urge you to support H.R. 676 and H.R. 3200.

Sincerely,

Andy Ruff, President
At-Large Representative

Isabel Piedmont-Smith, Vice President
District V Representative

Steve Volan, Parliamentarian
District VI Representative

Tim Mayer
At-Large Representative

Susan Sandberg
At-Large Representative

Chris Sturbaum
District I Representative

Mike Satterfield
District III Representative

Dave Rollo
District IV Representative

Enclosures: City Council Resolutions 94-54 and 06-16

401 N. Morton Street • Bloomington, IN 47404 City Hall Phone: (812) 349-3409 • Fax: (812) 349-3570
www.bloomington.in.gov
e-mail: council@bloomington.in.gov

City of Bloomington
Office of the Common Council

August 5, 2009

The Honorable Steve Buyer
2230 Rayburn Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Buyer:

As representatives of the citizens of the City of Bloomington, the Bloomington City Council urges you to support the single-payer health plan as outlined in H.R. 676, *The United States Healthcare Act* (*The Expanded and Improved Medicare for All Act*) and the interim measure of a public option plan as proposed in H.R. 3200 *America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009*. The Bloomington City Council has a long-standing commitment to a policy of universal, single-payer healthcare. In 1994, the Council passed *Resolution 94-54: To Support State and Federal Legislation Enacting Single-Payer Health Insurance.* In 2006, the Council re-iterated its concern with *Resolution 06-16: Supporting State and Federal Legislation Enacting Universal Publicly-Paid Health Insurance.* Federal action to correct the unjust and ineffective nature of our current health care system is long overdue.

Since the Council's first policy statement, the number of people in the U.S. without health insurance grew from 38 million to 46 million. In Monroe County, over 15,000 residents are without health insurance. Most of the uninsured are hard-working citizens holding down two or three jobs. These people live sicker and die younger. To paraphrase Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., this is a form of inequality that is both shocking and inhumane.

In the interest of providing affordable healthcare to *all* Americans, the current H.R. 3200 public option bill is an important step in the right direction. However, it is only a step. Insofar as H.R. 3200 requires that all Americans buy private insurance, it is critical that the measure protect Americans against the weakness of a private system -- namely the extraordinary administrative waste that occasions bankruptcy through co-payments, deductibles and loopholes. We need a plan that makes universal, comprehensive coverage affordable. And while we endorse interim measures to foster greater health security, such as H.R. 3200, we maintain that a single-payer, *Medicare for All*, plan as outlined in H.R. 676, is the most efficient, fair and cost-effective way to expand health care coverage to all Americans.

We urge you to support H.R. 676 and H.R. 3200.

Sincerely,

Andy Ruff, President
At-Large Representative

Isabel Piedmont-Smith, Vice President
District V Representative

Steve Volan, Parliamentarian
District VI Representative

Tim Mayer
At-Large Representative

Susan Sandberg
At-Large Representative

Chris Sturbaum
District I Representative

Mike Satterfield
District III Representative

Dave Rollo
District IV Representative

Enclosures: City Council Resolutions 94-54 and 06-16

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City of Bloomington
Office of the Common Council

August 5, 2009

The Honorable Evan Bayh
131 Russell Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Bayh:

As representatives of the citizens of the City of Bloomington, the Bloomington City Council urges you to support a national healthcare option that moves toward a single-payer plan as proposed in S.703, *The American Health Security Act of 2009* and the interim measure of *The American Health Choices Act.* The Bloomington City Council has a long-standing commitment to a policy of universal, single-payer healthcare. In 1994, the Council passed *Resolution 94-54: To Support State and Federal Legislation Enacting Single-Payer Health Insurance.* In 2006, the Council re-iterated its concern with *Resolution 06-16: Supporting State and Federal Legislation Enacting Universal Publicly-Paid Health Insurance.* Federal action to correct the unjust and ineffective nature of our current health care system is long overdue.

Since the Council's first policy statement, the number of people in the U.S. without health insurance grew from 38 million to 46 million. In Monroe County, over 15,000 residents are without health insurance. Most of the uninsured are hard-working citizens holding down two or three jobs. These people live sicker and die younger. To paraphrase Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., this is a form of inequality that is both shocking and inhumane.

In the interest of providing affordable healthcare to *all* Americans, the current public option bill – *The American Health Choices Act* -- is an important step in the right direction. However, it is only a step. Insofar as the measure requires that all Americans buy private insurance, it is critical that the measure protect Americans against the weakness of a private system -- namely the extraordinary administrative waste that occasions bankruptcy through co-payments, deductibles and loopholes. We need a plan that makes universal, comprehensive coverage affordable. And while we endorse interim measures to foster greater health security, we maintain that a single-payer, plan as outlined in S.703, is the most efficient, fair and cost-effective way to expand health care coverage to all Americans.

We urge you to support S.703 and *The American Health Choices Act.*

Sincerely,

Andy Ruff, President
At-Large Representative

Isabel Piedmont-Smith, Vice President
District V Representative

Steve Volan, Parliamentarian
District VI Representative

Tim Mayer
At-Large Representative

Susan Sandberg
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Enclosures: City Council Resolutions 94-54 and 06-16

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City of Bloomington
Office of the Common Council

August 5, 2009

The Honorable Richard Lugar
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Lugar:

As representatives of the citizens of the City of Bloomington, the Bloomington City Council urges you to support a national healthcare option that moves toward a single-payer plan as proposed in S.703, *The American Health Security Act of 2009* and the interim measure of *The American Health Choices Act.* The Bloomington City Council has a long-standing commitment to a policy of universal, single-payer healthcare. In 1994, the Council passed *Resolution 94-54: To Support State and Federal Legislation Enacting Single-Payer Health Insurance.* In 2006, the Council re-iterated its concern with *Resolution 06-16: Supporting State and Federal Legislation Enacting Universal Publicly-Paid Health Insurance.* Federal action to correct the unjust and ineffective nature of our current health care system is long overdue.

Since the Council's first policy statement, the number of people in the U.S. without health insurance grew from 38 million to 46 million. In Monroe County, over 15,000 residents are without health insurance. Most of the uninsured are hard-working citizens holding down two or three jobs. These people live sicker and die younger. To paraphrase Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., this is a form of inequality that is both shocking and inhumane.

In the interest of providing affordable healthcare to *all* Americans, the current public option bill – *The American Health Choices Act* -- is an important step in the right direction. However, it is only a step. Insofar as the measure requires that all Americans buy private insurance, it is critical that the measure protect Americans against the weakness of a private system -- namely the extraordinary administrative waste that occasions bankruptcy through co-payments, deductibles and loopholes. We need a plan that makes universal, comprehensive coverage affordable. And while we endorse interim measures to foster greater health security, we maintain that a single-payer, plan as outlined in S.703, is the most efficient, fair and cost-effective way to expand health care coverage to all Americans.

We urge you to support S.703 and *The American Health Choices Act.*

Sincerely,

Andy Ruff, President
At-Large Representative

Isabel Piedmont-Smith, Vice President
District V Representative

Steve Volan, Parliamentarian
District VI Representative

Tim Mayer
At-Large Representative

Susan Sandberg
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Enclosures: City Council Resolutions 94-54 and 06-16

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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 9th 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

RESOLUTION 06-16

SUPPORTING STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATION ENACTING UNIVERSAL PUBLICLY-PAID HEALTH INSURANCE

WHEREAS, over 46 million Americans, 860,000 Hoosiers and 15,000 Monroe County residents have no health insurance, and over 80% of these uninsured people live in families in which at least one family member works; and

WHEREAS, large and small businesses are having increasing difficulty providing health insurance to their employees, and this difficulty is adding to the number of uninsured; and

WHEREAS, The Institute of Medicine estimates that 18,000 people die every year because they lack insurance and cannot access adequate health care; and

WHEREAS, The Institute of Medicine estimates that tens of millions of Americans are under-insured, lacking sufficient coverage for vital care and medications; and

WHEREAS, even those with adequate insurance are facing growing premiums, co-payments and deductibles, as well as the fear that their insurance might be cancelled; and

WHEREAS, illness and medical bills are the leading cause of personal bankruptcy in the nation and Indiana has one of the highest rates of medical bankruptcy in the country; and

WHEREAS, this growing problem cannot be ignored any longer by our legislative bodies; and

WHEREAS, United States Representative John Conyers has introduced House Resolution 676, (HR 676), the *United States National Health Insurance Act*, which would provide healthcare to all; and

WHEREAS, a proposal for *Universal Publicly Paid Health Care in Indiana* will be introduced in the Indiana legislature in January 2007; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council passed *Resolution 94-54* in 1994 calling for a universal health care system and since that time, the health care crisis has only worsened; and

WHEREAS, health care is a basic human right;

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

SECTION I. The Council supports the principle of universal publicly-paid health insurance that would provide health care to everyone at reasonable costs.

SECTION II. The Council supports universal publicly-paid health insurance that would provide for physician and hospital visits, pharmaceuticals, preventative care, dental care, long-term care, substance abuse treatment and mental health care without deductibles and co-payments, and would provide all patients and providers freedom of choice.

SECTION III. The Council supports and endorses HR 676 the *United States National Health Insurance Act* and respectfully requests our elected federal officials to endorse and adopt HR 676.

SECTION IV. The Council supports and endorses State legislation providing for universal publicly-paid health insurance for all Indiana residents.

SECTION V. The Council directs the City Clerk to send a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, members of the Indiana Congressional Delegation, other members of the United States Congress in positions of leadership in the House and Senate and their committees with jurisdiction over public health, the Governor of Indiana and members of Bloomington's delegation to the Indiana legislature, and other leaders of the State legislature as deemed appropriate.

SECTION VI. The Council directs that this resolution be posted on the City of Bloomington web site.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this 6th day of DECEMBER, 2006.

CHRIS STURBAUM, President
Bloomington Common Council

SIGNED and APPROVED by me upon this 7th day of DECEMBER, 2006.

MARK KRUZAN, Mayor
City of Bloomington

ATTEST:

REGINA MOORE, Clerk
City of Bloomington

SYNOPSIS

This resolution is sponsored by Councilmembers Tim Mayer, Andy Ruff, Chris Gaal and Mike Diekhoff and documents the problem of access to affordable health care. The resolution points out that the growing cost of health insurance makes adequate care inaccessible to many, causes over 18,000 deaths in the country each year, brings about great suffering, triggers personal bankruptcy and stifles small businesses. Concluding that health care is a basic human right, the resolution supports the principle of universal publicly-paid health insurance that would provide care to everyone. The resolution supports a plan that would provide for physician and hospital visits, pharmaceuticals, preventative care, dental care, long-term care, and non-discriminatory mental health care without deductibles and co-payments, and would provide all patients and providers freedom of choice. Finally, the resolution supports federal and State legislative initiatives to implement universal publicly-paid health care.

Signed copies to:
legal (10)
Controller
US President Bush
Indiana Congressional Delegation (11)
Indiana Senators (50)
Indiana State Reps (100)
Hoosiers for a Common Sense Health Plan - Stone
governor Daniels
US House leadership
US Senate leadership
US Congressman Conyers
House and Senate committee leaders.

CA/CA (3)
clerk
file