

RESOLUTION NO. _____ (CM)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE SUPPORTING UNITED STATES HOUSE RESOLUTION 1384 AND SENATE RESOLUTION 1129, THE MEDICARE FOR ALL ACT OF 2019, AND CALLING ON OUR FEDERAL LEGISLATORS TO WORK TOWARD ITS IMMEDIATE ENACTMENT, ASSURING APPROPRIATE AND EFFICIENT HEALTH CARE FOR ALL RESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES

WHEREAS, the United States spends nearly twice as much per capita on health care as all other comparable countries and yet ranks only 35th in the world by global health standards, including on such critical barometers as average life expectancy, infant mortality, maternal mortality, and death from preventable diseases; and

WHEREAS, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) enacted important improvements, primarily through the expansion of Medicaid in states that have agreed to do so, and limits on some insurance industry abuses, that reform still left tens of millions with a continuing crisis in access, cost, and quality of care; and

WHEREAS, the number of Americans without health insurance is still nearly 30 million, while more than 40 million Americans remain underinsured, despite important gains made since the implementation of the Affordable Care Act; and

WHEREAS, every person in our City deserves high quality health care; and

WHEREAS, the never-ending rising costs of health care add challenges to our already strapped municipal budget and our small businesses, which keep our communities thriving; and

WHEREAS, the Medicare for All Act of 2019 would provide national health insurance for every person in the United States for all necessary medical care including prescription drugs; hospital, surgical and outpatient services; primary and preventive

care; emergency services; women's reproductive care; dental and vision care; and long-term care; and

WHEREAS the Medicare for All Act of 2019 would provide coverage without copays, deductibles or other out-of-pocket costs, and would slash bureaucracy, protect the doctor-patient relationship and assure patients a free choice of doctors; and

WHEREAS, recent polls show that a majority of Americans support Medicare-for-All; and

WHEREAS, the Medicare for All Act of 2019 will guarantee that all residents of Watsonville will be fully covered for health care without copays, deductibles or other out-of-pocket costs, and would save millions in taxpayer dollars now spent on premiums that provide often inadequate health insurance coverage for government employees; and

WHEREAS, the quality of life for the residents of Watsonville will vastly improve because they would be able to get the ongoing care they need, instead of waiting until they have a medical emergency that could upend their lives as well as further burden local resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE, CALIFORNIA, AS FOLLOWS:

That the City Council of the City of Watsonville hereby endorses H.R. 1384 and S. 1129, the Medicare for All Act of 2019, that will expand health coverage and health security, eliminate health care disparities, and lower health care costs for all.
