

WHEREAS,

In the current economic crisis the City of Northampton faces a severe budget deficit and

WHEREAS,

The current general economic difficulties are also placing more financial stress on our city's residents with inconsistent health care coverage under the current system and

WHEREAS,

Single payer health care reform promises to significantly reduce the cost of health care for both employers and for individuals while providing comprehensive health care for all and

WHEREAS,

Legislation has been filed in the General Court as HB 2127 creating single payer health care reform for the Commonwealth and

WHEREAS,

Legislation has been filed as HR 676 in the US House of Representatives (also called Expanded and Improved Medicare for All) and as S703 in the U.S. Senate to provide a national system of single payer health care

WHEREAS,

In the November 2008 polls, the voters of Northampton supported single payer health care by eighty percent.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

That the City Council of the City of Northampton reaffirms its position supporting the adoption of a universal single payer health care financing system in which employment-based health care insurance is replaced by a publicly financed, privately delivered health care system. We urge our state legislators, Senator Stanley Rosenberg and Representative Peter Kocot, to support HB 2127. We urge Congressman Richard Neal to co-sponsor HR 676. We also urge Senator Edward Kennedy and Senator John Kerry to support S703.