

RESOLUTION OF THE TROY CITY COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL  
HEALTH INSURANCE ACT AS PROPOSED BY H.R. 676

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WHEREAS, every person in the City of Troy and the United States deserves access to affordable, quality healthcare; and

WHEREAS, over 45 million Americans live daily without healthcare coverage; and

WHEREAS, even those now insured often experience burdensome medical debt and sometimes life threatening delays in obtaining healthcare; and

WHEREAS, illnesses and medical debt annually cause five hundred thousand bankruptcies in the United States affecting two million people and an increasing number of home foreclosures are also associated with medical debt; and

WHEREAS, administrative costs and profits amount to 30 percent of healthcare spending in the United States, with rising costs contributing to decreased international competitiveness and massive layoffs; and

WHEREAS, Americans spend double what other industrialized countries spend per person while they are covering all their citizens; and

WHEREAS, as of December 31, 2008, the City of Troy recognized an unfunded net liability for future health benefits totaling \$163,626,595, as an other liability in the schedule of non-current governmental liabilities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Troy's 2009 salary expenditures are approximately \$31,535,503 for 741 employees, F.I.C.A. is \$2,412,466, and health insurance is \$11,444,955, including \$4,250,428 for retirees; and

WHEREAS, under the National Health Insurance Act, there would be a F.I.C.A. increase of 4.5% or \$1,419,098, resulting in a new F.I.C.A. expense of \$3,831,564 and elimination of the \$11,444,955 expense for health insurance for a net savings of \$10,025,857 to the City of Troy; and

WHEREAS, these savings could be applied to reducing the current heavy property tax burden which is forcing seniors and others with limited means out of their homes and undermining the City of Troy's financial viability; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Representative John Conyers has introduced the HR 676, the National Health Insurance Act; and

WHEREAS, the goal of HR 676 is to guarantee that all Americans have access to the highest quality and most cost-effective healthcare services, regardless of employment, income, or healthcare status; and

WHEREAS, HR 676 will cover all medically necessary services, including primary care, inpatient care, outpatient care, emergency care, prescription drugs, durable medical equipment, long term care, mental health services, dentistry, eye care, podiatry, chiropractic, and substance abuse treatment, and

WHEREAS, HR 676 will give patients their choice of physicians, hospitals, providers, and clinics with no co-pays or deductibles in a publicly financed, privately delivered system, and

WHEREAS, the United States Conference of Mayors at their 76th Annual Meeting in June 2008 adopted a resolution in support of HR 676.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Troy City Council expresses its support for the National Health Insurance Act (HR 676) and joins with the US Conference of Mayors in calling upon federal legislators to work toward its immediate enactment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to United States Senators Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand and United State Representative Paul Tonka from the 21<sup>st</sup> Congressional District of New York.

*Passed unanimously on July 9, 2009*

Approved as to form June 18, 2009

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Charles A .Sarris Corporation Counsel