



**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AN ACT ESTABLISHING MEDICARE FOR
ALL INFOR MASSACHUSETTS RESIDENTS**

Council Sponsors: Councilors Hanneke, Pam, and Rooney; Community Sponsor: Barbara Pearson

WHEREAS, the United States remains one of the few developed nations that does not provide an equitable system of universal health coverage to its residents; and

WHEREAS, United States health outcomes are far lower and costs far higher than in other developed nations; and

WHEREAS, the health and financial well-being of future generations--our children and grandchildren--depend on meaningful health coverage changes now; and

WHEREAS, recent health care reforms have been inadequate, leaving many residents with costs beyond their means and care inadequate for their needs; and

WHEREAS, costs incurred under the current health care system are an unnecessary burden to businesses and cities and towns, including Amherst; and

WHEREAS, the current patchwork system of health care coverage administered by multiple private insurance companies creates overheads as much as 10 times the overhead of traditional Medicare (30% v. 3%), yet fails to provide comprehensive, affordable, quality health care to all Massachusetts residents; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress and Massachusetts Senate and House legislature seek to establish a health care trust funded in part through a payroll tax that would be less costly to most Massachusetts residents than their current insurance premiums, deductibles and copays, while a) covering all necessary preventive care and medical treatment from prenatal care to hospice; b) enabling people to see any licensed in-state provider for health care and to receive out-of-state emergency care; and c) ensuring health decisions are made between patients and their health care providers, not insurance executives; and

WHEREAS, improved Medicare for All, a single-payer health care system, would guarantee medical care, dental care, eye care, and eyelong-term care among its other comprehensive benefits for all Massachusetts residents, regardless of income or employment, and save money by simplifying the way we pay for health care, centralizing health care financing and cost control in a single public Trust while maintaining the delivery of care in private hands; and



TOWN OF
AMHERST
MASSACHUSETTS

WHEREAS, Amherst Town Meeting passed resolutions in favor of establishing a ~~state-wide~~ system of single payer health care in 2000 and 2006; and

WHEREAS, in November 2018, 88% of Amherst voters voted "yes" on a ballot question supporting the establishment of single payer health care in Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS, ~~in the absence of a federal program that achieves the goals of universal, affordable access to essential health services, the residents of Amherst support a health care program financed by the Commonwealth which includes continuation of federal funding and which~~ single-payer health care may permit the Town to reallocate millions in taxpayer money away from health insurance costs and into other programs, expenses, and investments for the Town.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Amherst Town Council ~~endorses~~endorse and ~~support~~support bills ~~S.744 and H.1239, each titled "An Act Establishing currently before the United States Congress establishing improved~~ Medicare for All, including in Massachusetts" ~~currently before the Massachusetts legislature~~, and urge our ~~Senator Joanne Comerford~~Senators Edward Markey and Elizabeth Warren and Representative ~~Mindy Domb~~James McGovern, who are already co-sponsors, to work proactively to create a "single payer system of universal health care that provides all Massachusetts residents with comprehensive health care coverage, including the freedom to choose doctors and other health care professionals, facilities, and services, and eliminates the role of insurance companies in health care by creating an insurance trust fund that is publicly administered."²

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of Town council shall cause copies of this Resolution be sent to President Biden, Secretary of Health and Human Services Becerra, Senators Markey and Warren, Representative McGovern, Massachusetts Governor Healey, State Senators Comerford and Eldridge, State Representatives Domb and Sabadosa, and members of the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing.

Voted this ___ day of _____ 2023.

J. Lynn Griesemer, Amherst Town Council President