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## Resolution in Support of HR 676 – National Health Insurance Act

WHEREAS, every person in San Francisco and in the United States deserves access to affordable, quality healthcare; and

WHEREAS, the crisis in healthcare in the United States of America includes rising healthcare costs, increased insurance costs and out-of-pocket medical expenses; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. poverty rate is increasing, as employee layoffs and outsourcing of the workforce is increasing; and

WHEREAS, approximately 80,000 San Franciscans lacked health insurance in 2007; and

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

WHEREAS, one-half of personal bankruptcies are due to illnesses or medical bills; and

WHEREAS, the rising cost of insuring public employees can be reduced and best met not by limiting benefits but by providing benefits under a national, publicly-funded health insurance program; and

WHEREAS, the complex bureaucracy arising from our system of fragmented, for-profit, multi-payer system of healthcare financing consumes approximately 30 percent of U.S. healthcare spending; and

WHEREAS, rationing healthcare according to ability to pay has diminished the overall health of our citizens to the point at which the U.S. ranks shamefully low at thirty-seventh in quality by the World Health Organization; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Representative John Conyers has introduced HR 676, the United States National Health Insurance Act, in the United States House of Representatives for the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, and this act would provide a universal, comprehensive, single-payer system of high quality national health insurance;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the San Francisco Labor Council endorses Congressman Conyers' legislation, HR 676, "Expanded and Improved Medicare for All", and will work to educate our community on the importance of this legislation, and that copies of this resolution be sent to our two Senators in the U.S. Senate and members of the House of Representatives.

Submitted by Nato Green, California Nurses Association, and unanimously adopted by the San Francisco Labor Council on February 11, 2008.

Respectfully,

Tim Paulson  
Executive Director

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