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Resolution in Support of June 19, 2008 Rally at the America's Health Insurance Plans Conference and Calling for Support for SB 840, the California Universal Healthcare Act, and HR 676, the US National Health Insurance Act

WHEREAS, our healthcare system is in decline as evidenced by the growing number uninsured workers, steeply rising health insurance premiums and declining quality of care for both insured and uninsured people; and

WHEREAS, HR 676 has been endorsed by 408 union organizations in 48 states, including 104 Central Labor Councils and State Labor Federations and 33 AFL-CIO's (KY, PA, CT, OH, DE, ND, WA, SC, WY, VT, FL, WI, WV, SD, NC, MO, MN, ME, AR, MD-DC, TX, IA, AZ, TN, OR GA, OK, KS, CO, IN, AL, CA & AK); and

WHEREAS, a lack of health insurance is a substantial barrier to receiving healthcare and has been a proven cause of poor health outcomes and increased mortality; and

WHEREAS, most insured are members of working families whose employers do not provide health insurance benefits; and

WHEREAS, people who have insurance are very worried of losing it due to declining employer-offered coverage and employment instability; and

WHEREAS, health insurance premiums are growing by double digit margins each year such that growth in healthcare spending is the single greatest problem facing our economy; and

WHEREAS, the United States is the last industrial nation in the world yet to establish a healthcare plan to cover all residents and the US spends twice as much on healthcare as every other industrialized nation; and

WHEREAS, SB 840 (Kuehl) and HR 676 (Conyers) are plans to establish a system of health insurance for everyone without the health insurance industry, thereby stabilizing the growth in healthcare spending and improving the quality at the same time; and

WHEREAS, this model has been tested in every other industrial nation in the world and in the US through Medicare and the Veterans' Administration; and

WHEREAS, this model is funded by consolidating all public monies spent on healthcare and replacing the premiums, co-payments and deductibles paid to insurance companies with premiums paid to this system; and

WHEREAS, an independent financial analysis of SB 840 found that the cost of providing coverage to the uninsured and underinsured would be more than offset by savings resulting from administrative implication bulk purchasing prescriptions. This analysis also determined this model would provide savings to California businesses, consumers and government,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the San Francisco Labor Council supports the June 19, 2008 rally calling for "Healthcare: YES! Insurance Companies: NO!" and supports HR 676 and SB 840; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the San Francisco Labor Council urge all of its affiliates to support and attend the June 19, 2008 rally.

Adopted by the Executive Committee of the San Francisco Labor Council on May 5, 2008.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tim Paulson", with a long horizontal line extending to the left.

Tim Paulson
Executive Director

OPEIU3 AFL-CIO 11