

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S
HEALTH CARE REFORM PRINCIPLES
Resolution 08/2009-10

WHEREAS, the Carrboro Board of Aldermen is committed to and have generated a letter urging Senator Hagan's full backing of the public option for health insurance sought by the Administration; and

WHEREAS, Senator Hagan has publically committed to support public option; and

WHEREAS, municipalities are on the frontline of the health care crisis with high rates of un-insurance and rapidly escalating costs affecting residents, businesses, and workers; and

WHEREAS, Carrboro government spent \$1,117,174.83 in Fiscal 2008-09 to provide health coverage to its 290 employees, dependents, and retirees, and rising health costs affect Carrboro's ability to provide other services; and

WHEREAS, many Carrboro citizens lack health insurance and are less likely than their insured counterparts to receive recommended preventive and screening services, medicines and treatments that meet the professional standard, and are more likely to die prematurely; and

WHEREAS, children in Carrboro who may lack health insurance coverage will have fewer well-child visits, the least access to specialists, fewer immunizations and more visits to the emergency room than children with health coverage; and

WHEREAS, millions more of Americans are underinsured and at risk of financial ruin if they experience a major illness; and

WHEREAS, health care costs, and employment-based health insurance premiums in particular, have increased at rates much higher than inflation or wage growth for the last decade; and

WHEREAS, our current health care system focuses on treating disease rather than preventing it or promoting wellness; and

WHEREAS, there are large disparities in health status and health outcomes based on race, ethnicity, and physical ability, and many health care providers do not offer adequate service to patients with limited English proficiency or limited physical or mental ability; and

WHEREAS, public hospitals, clinics, community health centers, and other safety net providers give care to millions of underserved individuals regardless of income, health coverage or immigration status; and

WHEREAS, in Orange County, we have developed innovative programs to expand access to quality health care, make health care more affordable, we acknowledge that any comprehensive reform must be led by the federal government; and

WHEREAS, leaders in both political parties serving in Congress and the White House have called for the enactment of comprehensive health care reform; and

WHEREAS, the President has pledged enactment of comprehensive reform this year, and substantial progress is being made in Congress to engage stakeholders and craft comprehensive reform; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen, as representatives of their citizens, as employers, as health care providers and as partners to small and larger businesses who struggle with health care costs, should have their voices heard in the crafting of comprehensive reform proposals, and all people should be willing to make some sacrifices to gain a comprehensive health care system for all.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF CARRBORO:

Section 1. The Carrboro Board of Aldermen supports and calls for the immediate enactment of the Administration's health care reform principles and agrees that comprehensive reform should reduce long-term growth of health care costs for businesses and government; protect families from debt or bankruptcy due to health care costs; maintain coverage when someone changes or loses a job; end barriers to coverage for people with pre-existing medical conditions; guarantee choice of doctors and health plans; improve patient safety and quality of care; invest in prevention and wellness; assure affordable, quality health coverage for all Americans.

Section 2. The Carrboro Board of Aldermen urges Congress to support the inclusion of a public option in health care reform legislation; support public hospitals and other providers in the health care safety net so that those who fall through the cracks of expanded health care coverage may still receive care; so that the cultural competencies achieved by providers serving diverse populations are preserved and enhanced in a reformed health care system; and so that surge capacity stands available and ready in case of public emergencies; and

Section 3. This resolution shall be forwarded to Congressman Price and Senators Hagan and Burr, and the Carrboro Board of Aldermen encourages the Chapel Hill Town Council, the Hillsborough Town Board, and the Orange County Board of Commissioners to join the Town of Carrboro in endorsing comprehensive health care reform legislation.

Section 4. This resolution shall become effective upon adoption.