# RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ACTS ESTABLISHING MEDICARE FOR ALL FOR MASSACHUSETTS RESIDENTS

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

**WHEREAS, t**he 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 legislature seek to establish health care trusts funded in part through taxes that could 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 long-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

**WHEREAS,** Amherst Town Meeting passed resolutions in favor of establishing a 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**,  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 endorse and support bills currently before the United States Congress establishing improved Medicare for All, including in Massachusetts, and urge our Senators Edward Markey and Elizabeth Warren and Representative 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.

**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