

## Resolutions passed in 2017

### April 24, 2017 DEERFIELD TOWN MEETING

Whereas access to health care has become one of the biggest political issues of the day and is of great concern to ourselves and our neighbors; and

Whereas: The U.S. remains one of the few countries that does not provide universal publicly funded health care; and

Whereas: the cost of health care keeps increasing thereby creating a burden and a concern to us all; and

Whereas: the number on people who do not have affordable access to quality health care increases, the health of our communities decreases, and

Whereas: the cost of health insurance increases and the policies include up-front costs of co-pays and deductibles that are a burden for employers and employees.

Whereas: in particular, the money spent by Cities and Towns to cover their employees is a large cost to both the employer and the employees; and

Whereas: these funds could be better spent by Towns to improve the overall quality of life, and by employees to increase wages and salaries and other benefits; and

Whereas: Massachusetts has been a leader in providing coverage for quality health care for its people; and

Whereas: there is an alternative means of providing health care for all that also provides better coverage, without co-pays and deductibles, and includes medical, dental and preventative care.

That this bill is the “Improved Medicare for All,” House Bill #2987 Senate Bill #619

Therefore, be it Resolved:

That the Town of Deerfield endorses the House and Senate Bill, “Improved Medicare for All,” (S619; H2987) and will communicate its support to the State Representative and State Senator.

**APRIL 29, 2017 LEVERETT TOWN MEETING**

**PETITION REGARDING SINGLE PAYER HEALTHCARE (IMPROVED MEDICARE FOR ALL)**

WHEREAS, there is much concern regarding healthcare for citizens at the Federal Level of government.

WHEREAS, it is believed that everyone should have good healthcare as a right and not a privilege.

WHEREAS, there are bills in both the Massachusetts Senate and the House regarding Single Payer Healthcare: i.e., SB 619 “An act establishing improved Medicare for All in Massachusetts”, and SB610, HB 596 “An act to ensure effective health care cost control”.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Leverett request that Governor Baker approve Single Payer Healthcare (Improved Medicare for All) for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Leverett Town Clerk be, and is hereby, instructed to certify and transmit to the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the President of the Massachusetts Senate, and the Majority Leader of the Massachusetts House of Representatives, under the seal of the Town of Leverett, a copy of this resolution and its adoption by the Town of Leverett, as a petition and request that this petition be seriously considered by all parties mentioned above.

**MAY 2, 2017 COLRAIN TOWN MEETING**

**“IMPROVED MEDICARE FOR ALL” PETITION**

Where the U.S. remains one of the few countries that does not provide universal publicly funded health care.

Whereas there is a Massachusetts alternative to the Affordable Care Act (“Obamacare”) for less cost that will provide health care for all, better coverage, without co-pays and deductibles, and includes medical, dental and preventative care.

That this bill is the “Improved Medicare for All”, House Bill 2987, Senate Bill 619.

That the Town of Colrain endorses the House and Senate Bill, “Improved Medicare for All”, and will communicate its support to the State Representative and State Senate.

## **MAY 6, 2017 PLAINFIELD TOWN MEETING**

Whereas access to health care is of great concern to ourselves and our neighbors; and

Whereas when the number of people who do not have access to quality health care increases, the health of our communities decreases, and

Whereas the money spent by Cities and Towns to cover their employees is a large cost to both employer and employee; and

Whereas Massachusetts has been a leader in providing coverage for quality health care for its people; and

Whereas there is an alternative means of providing health care for all that also provides better coverage, without co-pays and deductibles, and includes medical, dental and preventative care.

That this bill is the “Improved Medicare for All”, House Bill #1026, Senate Bill #619.

Therefore be it Resolved:

That the Town of Plainfield endorses the House and Senate Bill, “Improved Medicare for All”, and will communicate its support to the Town’s State Representatives and State Senator.

## **MAY 13, 2017 LEYDEN TOWN MEETING**

### **MASS CARE COST STUDY**

Whereas access to health care has become one of the biggest political issues of the day and is of great concern to ourselves and our neighbors; and

Whereas the U.S. remains one of the few countries that does not provide universal publicly funded health care; and

Whereas the cost of health care keeps increasing thereby creating a burden and a concern to us all; and

Whereas the number of people who do not have affordable access to quality health care increases, the health of our communities decreases; and

Whereas the cost of health insurance increases and the policies include up-front costs of co-pays and deductibles that are a burden for employers and employees; and

Whereas, in particular, the money spent by Cities and Towns to cover their employees is a large cost to both the employer and the employees; and

Whereas these funds could be better spent by Towns to improve the overall quality of life, and by employees to increase wages and salaries and other benefits; and

Whereas Massachusetts has been a leader in providing coverage for quality health care for its people; and

Whereas there is an alternative means of providing health care for all that also provides better coverage, without co-pays and deductibles, and includes medical, dental and preventative care.

That this bill is the “Improved Medicare for All”, House Bill #2987 Senate Bill #619

Therefore be it Resolved:

That the Town of Leyden will study the current costs and coverage of Health Insurance for its employees and the effect those costs have had on the Town Budgets and on employee compensation for the last two years; and compare those costs to estimated costs and benefits under the “Improved Medicare for All” Bill now in the State Legislature.

That the Town of Leyden make public the results of such a study and hold a meeting to determine whether support for the “Improved Medicare for All” Bill is warranted.

There is no cost to the town for this study as it will be carried out by volunteer time.

## Resolutions passed prior to 2017

### **Northampton City Council Resolution – Health Care Trust Resolution**

August 19, 1999

The following Resolution passed Second Reading on a voice vote of 8-yes 1-no

WHEREAS, skyrocketing health care costs threaten the survival of many thousands of people and place a heavy financial burden on all communities in the Commonwealth, and,

WHEREAS, Legislation has been filed in the Great and general court creating a Massachusetts Health Care Trust, a single payer public entity to provide complete lifetime health care coverage to every resident of the Commonwealth and,

WHEREAS, this legislation, Senate 531 and House 1947, is supported by fourteen members of the Senate and forty seven members of the house and,

WHEREAS, the main purpose of this legislation is to establish a rational less costly system of financing through consolidation of administrative costs and effective allocation of resources which would then allow medical decisions to be made by patients and their physicians or other health care providers rather than the insurance industry and

WHEREAS, two reports commissioned by the Massachusetts Medical Society found that a single payer system would “offer the most care and the highest level of savings for Massachusetts compared to all other reform options” and is the most feasible health insurance reform option.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

That the City Council of the City of Northampton urges the Legislature to enact the Health Care Trust legislation and the Council calls upon Senator Stanley Rosenberg and Representative William P. Nagle, Jr. to work towards the passage of this plan so that all residents will have full health coverage as a matter of right with the cost to be shared by all of the citizens of the Commonwealth.

Rules suspended, passed two reading and enrolled.

## **Amherst Town Meeting—Universal Health Care (League of Women Voters)**

May 8 2006

VOTED that the Town reaffirm the previous vote of Amherst Town Meeting (April 26, 2000) “to urge the state Legislature to create a system of universal health care in Massachusetts that provides all Massachusetts residents with comprehensive health care coverage (including free choice of doctors and other health professionals, facilities and services and also including prescription drugs) and eliminates the role of insurance companies in health care by creating a publicly administered insurance trust fund, similar to the Federal Social Security trust fund; and commend Senator Stanley Rosenberg and Representative Ellen Story for their support of single payer legislation and urge them to use their full influence to move such legislation forward.”