

**Proposed Resolution in Support of Single Payer Healthcare in Massachusetts
South Hadley Town Meeting**

Whereas the US remains the only industrialized nation that does not provide universal health coverage to its citizens; and

Whereas US health outcomes are far below those of other industrialized nations, to the detriment of general well-being and national productivity; and

Whereas approximately 30% of current healthcare dollars are spent on bloated administrative costs and profits required by insurance companies, compared with 3% to 4% overhead costs for a Single Payer system; and

Whereas recent healthcare reforms still leave many citizens with costs beyond their means and care below their needs; and

Whereas the health and financial well-being of future generations--our children and grandchildren--depend on meaningful health coverage changes now; and

Whereas small businesses and startups are disadvantaged by the high costs of providing private insurance to their employees under the current system, and such businesses are critical to the economy of South Hadley; and

Whereas health insurance is becoming an increasing burden on municipal budgets in MA, including in South Hadley, and South Hadley would be relieved of appropriating money for future retiree health benefits; and

Whereas South Hadley's annual cost for health insurance could be reduced by more than \$1.5 million under Single Payer, funds that could be freed up for employees and for important municipal needs; and

Whereas the November 2018 ballot question supporting single payer healthcare garnered "yes" votes from 66.3% of South Hadley citizens who weighed in on the issue; and

Whereas the Massachusetts Senate Bill SD2062 and House Bill HD2974 seek to establish a healthcare trust funded through a payroll tax that is less costly to Massachusetts residents than their current premiums, deductibles and co-pays, while a) covering *all* necessary preventive care and medical treatment; b) enabling people to see their current--or any--in-state provider for health care and providing for out-of-state emergency care; and c) ensuring health decisions are made between patients and their healthcare providers, *not* insurance adjusters;

THEREFORE be it resolved:

That the Town of South Hadley endorses Massachusetts Senate Bill SD2062 and House Bill HD2974 and will communicate its support to our State Senator and State Representative.