**CITY OF EASTHAMPTON RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF**

**MEDICARE FOR ALL/SINGLE PAYER HEALTH CARE**

**WHEREAS,** nearly 200,000 Massachusetts residents lack health insurance and many more, even with insurance, are unable to access care due to high out of pocket costs; and

**WHEREAS**, access to affordable, quality health care is a human right and a fundamental component of a decent and just society; and

**WHEREAS,** a Single Payer system will guarantee comprehensive medical coverage for all residents of Easthampton regardl*e*ss of socioeconomic status and without copays, deductibles, or other out of pocket expenses and will eliminate “networks” and “tiers” that limit provider choice; and

**WHEREAS**, the continued rise in costs of employment-based health insurance negatively affects our local economy by forcing businesses and municipalities to reduce staffing, defer raises, and hire more workers on a part-time basis; and

**WHEREAS,** the rising costs of health care are a significant burden to Easthampton’s already strapped municipal budget and to the small businesses and entrepreneurs that that help keep our community thriving; and

**WHEREAS,** the city of Easthampton in FY2019 would have saved more than 3 million dollars on health coverage for city, school district, and retired employees under the proposed Single Payer bill in Mass. and be relieved of the lion’s share of its OPEB liability; and

**WHEREAS**, 76% of Easthampton voters approved a Single Payer ballot question in November, 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Representative for Easthampton is a cosponsor of the proposed state Medicare for All legislation;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council of Easthampton, Mass. supports legislation that would provide equitable, affordable, and accessible health care to city and school district employees and retirees, and to all other residents of the City and the Commonwealth; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we support *An Act Establishing Medicare for All in Massachusetts (*S683/H1194)and call on our State Senator and State Representative to work for its immediate passage.