

Washington State's 42nd Legislative District Democratic Committee
September 2009

Public Option Resolution

WHEREAS, the health care system of the United States is in crisis, with almost fifty million Americans lacking any health insurance, tens of millions more lacking adequate coverage, and millions more who do have private coverage paying increasingly unaffordable premiums, resulting in inadequate access to care and premature death, illness, or financial ruin for millions of Americans; and

WHEREAS, public polls show that an overwhelming majority of Americans want health care reform to offer the choice of a robust public option similar to Medicare in order to, in the words of President Obama, "keep the insurance companies honest," while co-ops or so-called "triggers" are inadequate in and of themselves to address the health care crisis by creating significant competition for the medical insurance industry; and

WHEREAS, Republicans and their allies in the health insurance industry have organized and funded groups of extremists to disrupt efforts on the part of the Democratic majority and administration to reasonably discuss the issue with the American people, and have demonstrated an utter unwillingness to compromise in any way to pass meaningful health care reform; and

WHEREAS, Senator Edward Kennedy worked tirelessly throughout his senate career on health care reform, always wanting to ensure that every American had access to health care and stated at the Democratic National Convention on August 25, 2008, "And this is the cause of my life -- new hope that we will break the old gridlock and guarantee that every American -- north, south, east, west, young, old -- will have decent, quality health care as a fundamental right and not a privilege." Democratic members should honor his work, and heed his words, that indeed, health care is a *right*, and not a privilege.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that 42nd Legislative District Democrats urges Democratic members of Congress to vote for only such healthcare reform proposals as contain a robust public option at all stages of the legislative process including conference and reconciliation, and encourages Democratic legislators to use any available parliamentary means to pass such reform;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that 42nd Legislative District Democrats shall send a copy of this resolution to all Democratic members of Congress who represent any of our members.

Submitted to the 42nd Legislative District Democrats membership on September 12, 2009

Adopted by the 42nd Legislative District Democrats membership on September 12, 2009

Signed by Steve Lydolph, Chair _____