

## **Resolution Supporting Secure Health Care Campaign**

WHEREAS our health care system is failing; and

WHEREAS every year 800,000 Washington residents go uninsured; and

WHEREAS every 30 seconds an American files for bankruptcy because of medical debt; and

WHEREAS Hospitals and other health care providers spend nearly \$1 billion dollars every year in uncompensated care for the uninsured, a cost passed on to other Washington residents through increased insurance costs and higher taxes; and

WHEREAS more than 70% of the uninsured are members of working families, the majority of whom work in small businesses, the backbone of the state's economy; and

WHEREAS the Basic Health Program has been providing affordable, high-quality health care coverage for low-income Washingtonians who would otherwise not have access to coverage since 1987 but has never been adequately funded; and

WHEREAS private insurance companies in Washington maintain administrative costs over twice as high as public programs; amass millions in excessive surplus (over \$800 million in 2003 and 2004); and create coverage limits and fine-print designed to limit their risk and cherry-pick only the healthiest for good coverage;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that

The 45 District Democrats urge the state legislature enact legislation guaranteeing secure access to quality, affordable health care to all Washington residents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that

A five-year plan establishing this guarantee should be enacted during the 2007 legislative session, beginning with the following first steps:

- Continue the state's investment in covering all children;
- Support small business by providing premium assistance for low-income employees;
- Give larger employers a choice: provide good coverage or contribute to a state administered health care pool;
- Restore funding for the Basic Health Program to provide sliding scale coverage for the working poor; and
- Reform the private insurance industry by developing reasonable measures to control administrative costs, limit excessive surplus, and improve the sharing of risk to ensure that all residents have access to quality coverage at a fair price.