

RESOLUTION Urging Support for a Strong, National Public Insurance Option Now

WHEREAS: Our National Democratic Platform of 2008: Renewing America's Promise, states: "We believe that covering all is not just a moral imperative, but is necessary to making our health system workable and affordable... Families and individuals should have the option of keeping the coverage they have or choosing from a wide array of health insurance plans, including many private health insurance options and a public plan;"

WHEREAS: Candidate Barack Obama campaigned for a public option when we selected him as our Democratic nominee and elected him President;

WHEREAS: The President stated on July 18, 2009 that "any plan I sign must have an insurance exchange... with a variety of plans including a public option...to increase competition and keep insurance companies honest";

WHEREAS: The Democrats have majorities in both the House and the Senate of the U.S. Congress;

WHEREAS: "Co-operatives," an alternative to a public option currently under consideration by the Senate Finance committee, have never been tested as a model in the proposed format, and there is no evidence that they would save costs, work efficiently, or provide quality care;

WHEREAS: There is evidence that federally-funded and run programs such as the V.A. system and Medicare provide quality care in an efficient manner; and

WHEREAS: The need for significant health care reform is the #1 domestic priority of the American people, above and beyond any need for bipartisan compromise;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The King County Democratic Central Committee (KCDCC) urges President Obama to fight hard for the public option he campaigned for and that the American people want;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The KCDCC urges our U.S. Senators and Representatives to support – by both advocating for and voting for - a strong public option as part of health care reform this fall; specifically, we urge Senator Maria Cantwell to work with the Finance Committee to substitute a public option for co-operatives in their bill, as desired by her constituents;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The KCDCC supports Speaker Nancy Pelosi's insistence on retaining a public option in the House version of the health care bill;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The KCDCC urges Senator Harry Reid to support a public option in the Senate version of the bill; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED: The KCDCC thanks our state Senator Karen Keiser for supporting a public option as she works with other state legislators from around the country in their weekly conference calls to the White House.

Copies of this resolution shall be sent to President Obama, Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Senator Harry Reid, Senators Murray and Cantwell, our U.S. Representatives, and State Senator Karen Keiser.

Submitted by: Lisa Plymate, M.D., to the Resolutions Committee of the King County Democrats Central Committee, August 19, 2009

Passed by : Emergency Resolution