

Resolution in Support of National Health Care

Whereas, the United States Congress is currently considering legislation reforming national health care;

Whereas, the American Library Association (ALA) Council first endorsed a single-payer universal health insurance bill at the Annual Conference in 1992 (Exhibit 26B);

Whereas, ALA Council recognized the importance of comprehensive health care for all Americans and its impact on libraries and their users, and joined the Universal Health Care Action Network in 2005 (2004-2005 ALA CD #39, ALA Policy Manual 54.20); and

Whereas, ALA recently reaffirmed its support for affordable universal health care, including the option of a single-payer health care program (2008-2009 ALA CD#54); now, therefore be it

Resolved that:

1. the American Library Association (ALA) strongly urges the United States Congress to include a public option or "Medicare for All" provision in the current legislation; and
2. the ALA Executive Director charges the ALA Washington Office to vigorously lobby Congress in support of this position.

Initiated by Social Responsibilities Roundtable Action Council

Moved by Tiffani Conner, SRRT Councilor, Courtyard Boston Tremont

Seconded by Mary Biblo, Councilor-at-Large

January 16, 2010

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION



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RESOLUTION ON THE H.R. 1300 AND S. 2320, THE UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE ACT

WHEREAS, *The 50,000-member American Library Association in 1990 adopted a "Library Services for the Poor" policy which enjoins ALA and the library profession to promote "implementation of...national health insurance" as a means of reducing poverty; and*

WHEREAS, *Representative Marty Russo and Senator Paul Wellstone have introduced legislation to establish a system of single-payer, Canadian-style national health insurance which has already been supported by the American Public Health Association, Children's Defense Fund, Consumer Federation of America, Consumers Union, National Association of Social Workers, National Council of Senior Citizens, Physicians for a National Health Program, and many unions, including AFSCME and the ILGWU; therefore, be it*

RESOLVED, *That the American Library Association endorse H.R. 1300 and S. 2320, the Universal Health Care Act; and, be it further*

RESOLVED, *That copies of this resolution be sent to Representative Russo, Senator Wellstone, and the library press.*



**ADOPTED BY THE
 COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (ALA)
 July 1, 1992**

Peggy Sullivan

Peggy Sullivan
 Secretary to ALA Council

*Resolution Endorsing Legislative Proposals
For Universal Health Care*

- Whereas,* American Library Association Policy 54.20 ("Comprehensive Health Care") states that "ALA recognizes the importance of comprehensive health care for all Americans and its impact on libraries and their users"; and
- Whereas,* The ALA joined the Universal Health Care Action Network (UHCAN) by resolution on January 18, 2005; and
- Whereas,* On June 28, 2006, the ALA endorsed a resolution supporting HR 676, "Expanded Medicare for All," calling for a single-payer, universal health-care program; and
- Whereas,* The rapidly rising cost of health-care benefits continues to inhibit the ability of libraries to create career opportunities for librarians and library workers, stunts improvements in wages, and thereby threatens the future of our profession and our libraries; and
- Whereas,* The rising cost of providing health insurance has placed enormous burdens on state and local governments, making it increasingly difficult for them to adequately fund schools and libraries; and
- Whereas,* 46 million people in the United States have no health insurance; and
- Whereas,* Uninsured and underinsured working people often face financial ruin in the event of a medical emergency, which negatively impacts our communities; and
- Whereas,* Without good health, humankind cannot truly exercise intellectual freedom and civic engagement; now, therefore, be it
- Resolved,* That the American Library Association (ALA):
1. Reaffirms its support for affordable universal health care, including the option of a single-payer health care program; and
 2. Sends a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States and to all U.S. Senators and U.S. Representatives.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association
Wednesday, July 15, 2009
In Chicago, Illinois



Keith Michael Fiels
ALA Executive Director and ALA Council Secretary