

1 **2020 RES-295**

2 **IN SUPPORT OF THE MEDICARE FOR ALL ACT OF 2019**

3 Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, close to 30 million Americans were without health insurance.  
4 Millions more Americans have lost their employer-based health insurance since the onset of the  
5 pandemic, including an estimated 446,000 Wisconsin residents, according to the Kaiser Family  
6 Foundation's analysis in July 2020.

7 The pandemic has demonstrated how our public health depends on the universal availability of  
8 high quality health care to all people. The current for-profit healthcare system has demonstrated  
9 the inability to protect the health of residents prior to, as well as during, this pandemic. Millions  
10 with insurance have coverage so inadequate that a major illness would lead to financial ruin, and  
11 medical illness and bills contribute to two-thirds of all bankruptcies.

12 In Wisconsin, Black, Latinx, and Indigenous people suffer from significant healthcare disparities  
13 compared with their White counterparts, including, but not limited to higher rates of being  
14 uninsured, of poor or fair health status, chronic diseases, significantly higher preterm births,  
15 maternal mortality, and overall mortality. People of color have been hospitalized at high rates due  
16 to COVID-19 and suffered death at rates alarmingly higher than would be predicted for their  
17 population sizes in Wisconsin. Those same communities of color would see reductions in the  
18 aforementioned healthcare disparities from having access to high quality, universal healthcare  
19 without the interruptions in care present in an employer-based for-profit system.

20 Every person in Dane County deserves high quality health care. Continuously rising costs of  
21 health care add challenges to already strapped municipal budgets and small businesses.  
22 Healthcare is a right and not a privilege, but employer based health insurance has not adequately  
23 ensured that right for millions in this country.

24 The Medicare for All Act of 2019 would provide national health insurance for every person in the  
25 United States for all necessary medical care, including prescription drugs; hospital, surgical, and  
26 outpatient services; primary and preventive care; emergency services; reproductive care; dental  
27 and vision care; and long-term care. The Medicare for All Act of 2019 would provide coverage  
28 without copays, deductibles, or other out-of-pocket costs and would also slash bureaucracy,  
29 protect the doctor-patient relationship, and assure patients a free choice of doctors.

30 Recent polls show that a majority of Americans support Medicare for All.

31 The Medicare for All Act of 2019 would guarantee that all residents of Dane County would be fully  
32 covered for health care without copays, deductibles, or other out-of-pocket costs. The quality of  
33 life for the residents of Dane County would vastly improve because these residents would be able  
34 to get the ongoing care they need instead of waiting until a medical emergency upends their lives  
35 and further burdens local resources.

36 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Dane County enthusiastically supports the  
37 Medicare for All Act of 2019 (H.R. 1384 and S. 1129) and calls on federal legislators to work  
38 toward its immediate enactment, assuring appropriate and efficient health care for all residents of  
39 the United States.

40 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that support for Medicare for All Act of 2019 (H.R.1384 and S.  
41 1129) be incorporated into the Dane County legislative agenda.

42 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution shall be sent to President-Elect Joseph  
43 Biden Jr., Vice President-Elect Kamala Harris, U.S. Senators Tammy Baldwin and Ron Johnson,  
44 and the Wisconsin Congressional delegation.