1 **SUB 2 TO 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 pandemic, including an estimated 446,000 Wisconsin residents, according to the Kaiser Family 5 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 23 adequately 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 The Medicare for All Act of 2019 would guarantee that all residents of Dane County would be fully 31 covered for health care without copays, deductibles, or other out-of-pocket costs. The quality of 32 life for the residents of Dane County would vastly improve because these residents would be able 33 to get the ongoing care they need instead of waiting until a medical emergency upends their lives and further burdens local resources. 34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Dane County enthusiastically supports the 35 Medicare for All Act of 2019 (H.R. 1384 and S. 1129) and calls on federal legislators to work 36 37 toward its immediate re-introduction and enactment, assuring appropriate and efficient health care 38 for all residents of the United States.

- 39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Dane County's Legislative Lobbyist will advocate for
- 40 enactment of the Medicare for All Act of 2019 in her communications with federal officials on
- 41 behalf of Dane County.
- 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.