

**RESOLUTION: THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF NEW MEXICO SUPPORTS
A STRONG PUBLIC HEALTH INSURANCE OPTION**

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party of New Mexico believes that health care access is a right for all people living in America; and

WHEREAS, health care in New Mexico is in a deepening crisis: New Mexico ranks 49th in the number of uninsured; almost one out of four New Mexicans is uninsured; one out of five New Mexican children has no health insurance; and most uninsured or underinsured adults are working people; and

WHEREAS, the health of our families must come before the profits of companies, and New Mexico families should not be financially devastated paying for health care; and

WHEREAS, insurance premiums rose more than three times faster than the general rate of inflation. Co-pays are increasing; and pharmaceutical drug costs are rising; and

WHEREAS, these growing costs are making it more difficult for New Mexico businesses, municipal government and schools to provide and pay for health care coverage for their employees, placing increasing burdens on publicly financed programs such as Medicaid and county indigent funds; and

WHEREAS, senior citizens on a fixed income have to choose between healthcare and basic necessities of life because of the significant increases in the cost of health care; and

WHEREAS, making health care available to all reduces its overall costs when compared with the current system of only fragmented coverage of designated population groups; and

WHEREAS, it is acknowledged that the Democratic Party of New Mexico passed a resolution in 2008 that supports a single payer plan for New Mexico; it also recognizes the urgency to move forward in 2009 with a reform bill that has the potential to pass the congress;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Democratic Party of New Mexico supports a strong public health insurance option in the bills that are currently being considered in congress.

A strong public health insurance option:

Allows you to keep your coverage you have and provides an affordable alternative for those who are unhappy with their coverage or do not have insurance.

Includes a wide range of providers and does not waste money on marketing and underwriting.

Adds competition and safeguards against unscrupulous insurance practices. No one would be denied care due to pre-existing conditions.

Establishes benchmarks and quality guidelines to improve everyone's quality of care.

Lower costs for everyone by using its purchasing power to lower the prices of prescription drugs and improving incentives for healthcare providers.

Passed August 19, 2009 by Santa Fe County Dem Party for submission to State Central Committee on 9/12/09