

## **RESOLUTION NO. 5**

### **Affordable Health Care for All – An American Right**

Health care costs are skyrocketing out of control, placing all of us at risk for losing health insurance through no fault of our own. In today's rapidly changing economy, job turnover is at an all-time high, which means all of us are just one pink slip away from being uninsured and risking financial catastrophe. It is our shared responsibility to ensure every American can have the security from health care costs they need in order to take care of themselves and their family.

Spending on health care in the United States is becoming further out of reach for millions of women and their families, thus increasing numbers of Americans without health care.

Having a job no longer is an indicator of whether or not health care benefits will be provided, as fewer than 60% of employers and barely half of small employers offer health insurance.

Illness and medical bills are linked to nearly two thirds of bankruptcy. No one should lose health care because he or she is too ill to work.

Treating health care problems early and ensuring everyone has access to preventative care means less disease and exposure to disease for everyone, which will reduce health care costs.

Our health care system costs twice as much as Canada's health care system but actually delivers slightly worse care. Even with assuming diminishing returns, our expenditures should result in care outcomes at least 20% or 30% better than Canada's. Instead, they're about 5% worse but cost around 187% more.

15-30% of private insurance premiums are wasted on marketing, profits, CEO salaries, paperwork and denying care compared to about 3% under Medicare, a single-payer universal system.

Most strikes are caused by employers' attempts to reduce or eliminate health care benefits.

Even those who currently have insurance are seeing more fights at the bargaining table to keep the coverage they have and to keep costs for that coverage reasonable.

Women without insurance consistently report lower rates for screening tests for medical conditions such as breast cancer, osteoporosis and high blood pressure. They are more likely to sacrifice or delay the care they need, oftentimes resulting in worsened conditions when they finally are diagnosed.

Coalition of Labor Union Women  
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Women are more likely to need health care services since they have more chronic conditions, are in poorer health and are more likely to take prescription drugs while being less likely to afford health insurance since they have lower median incomes than men.

Women often take charge of the health care decisions and responsibilities for their families, including both children and elderly parents.

Without stable health care, a woman's ability to carry out her responsibilities to herself, her family, her union and her community is in jeopardy.

The United States remains the only industrialized nation that does not provide universal health care coverage for its citizens while spending more than any of those countries on health care costs.

Due to the fact that we have no national health care program, we are increasingly at a disadvantage as businesses seek to move out of the country in search of lower costs.

***THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:***

CLUW will join in the efforts to advocate for universal single payer health care coverage in the United States and a prescription drug plan that would provide real and affordable benefits;

CLUW will stand alongside our members, our brothers and sisters in the labor movement when they are in disputes with their employers over health care and health care costs;

CLUW will look for other opportunities to raise awareness of the health care crisis and to advocate for real solutions to the problems our members are facing.

CLUW will demand a strong public health option in any health plan that passes this session of Congress

CLUW will support passage of the Kucinich amendment to allow States to enact a single payer system.