

IN SUPPORT OF THE PUBLIC OPTION

WHEREAS: The AFL-CIO and the entire labor movement has worked for decades to achieve national health care; and

WHEREAS: In 2010, President Obama signed into law Health Care Reform; and

WHEREAS: The Health Care Reform law is a significant victory; and

WHEREAS: The Health Care Reform ends the worst insurance company abuses like denying coverage because of pre-existing conditions, stops wasteful spending on executive salaries by limiting how much of your insurance premium can go toward company administration and profits, gets a handle on excessive rates, mandating state and federal review of insurance plans that demand big premium increases, ends discrimination against women by forcing insurance companies to stop charging more for groups with higher percentages of women, beginning in 2014, requires large employers to pay a penalty if their employees have to get subsidies in the exchanges to buy their own insurance, expands the “risk pool” by covering nearly everyone and creates health insurance exchanges that will increase competition and help lower premium costs over time for all plans, reimburses plans for early retiree costs through a \$5 billion reinsurance fund, creates the largest tax cut for health care in history by giving tax credits and cost-sharing assistance to low- and middle-income Americans in the exchanges, gives people buying their own insurance access to lower group rates through the insurance exchanges, limits what people have to pay for premiums and out-of-pocket costs, using a sliding scale based on income, extends coverage to 32 million more Americans by 2019 by creating new health insurance exchanges—where members of Congress will be required to get their health coverage—and subsidizing coverage for those who can’t afford it, helps ensure children have health care starting this year by barring insurance companies from denying coverage to children based on pre-existing conditions and allowing children to stay on your policy until they are 26 years old, lowers costs and improves care for seniors, and invests in health care professionals; and

WHEREAS: One important component of the original legislation not included in the law is the “public option”; and

WHEREAS: The public option would drive down premiums and provide choice where few options exist; and

WHEREAS: For the American public transparency of costs and quality would result in lower costs and higher quality; and

WHEREAS: Nobel Laureate economist and New York Times columnist Paul Krugman has said that those who oppose the public option in the name of defending private competition are just defending lucrative local monopolies; and **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED: AFT Michigan applauds the work of the labor movement, Congressional supporters and President Obama, and all health care advocates, for achieving this landmark legislation; and **NOW THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY**

RESOLVED: AFT Michigan will work with the AFT to continue the fight for the public option, an option that must include transparency of costs and quality.

Submitted by: Legislation Committee
Legislation Committee recommends the resolution be adopted.