



National Lieutenant Governors Association

Better Health Care for All Resolution

WHEREAS, Access to high quality, affordable health care is essential to the well being of individuals and families, and to the economic prosperity of communities, states and our nation; and

WHEREAS, A number of our friends, neighbors and family members have no health coverage at all, and the number of uninsured Americans at any one time is estimated at 47 million; and

WHEREAS, Over 70 percent of all uninsured individuals are from families with one or more household members employed full-time, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation 2007 report, *The Uninsured: A Primer*; and

WHEREAS, Increasing premiums, deductibles, and co-pays can make it difficult or even impossible for too many people to obtain the high quality health care and insurance coverage they need to maintain their health; and

WHEREAS, Uninsured Americans pay on average one-third of the cost of their health care out-of-pocket, while the remaining cost of their care is shifted to taxpayer-funded programs and higher premiums for insured people as a “hidden tax,” according to Families USA 2005 report, *“Paying a Premium: The Added Cost of Health Care in the United States*; and

WHEREAS, As long as healthcare sector costs continue to increase at a faster rate than the current state and local means of generating revenue to provide for it, federal spending will rise at a rate that risks placing the budget on an unsustainable trajectory, according to former Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan's testimony before the Joint Economic Committee of the United States Congress;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the lieutenant governors of the National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA) shall pledge to support bipartisan legislation that seeks to:

1. **Provide every American with access to high quality, affordable health care, through:**
 - A. Information about the quality, cost, appropriate utilization, and relative effectiveness of both essential and elective health care services.
 - B. Policies that prevent illness and promote good health, particularly for children and youth.
 - C. Policies and other incentive driven reforms that reduce health care costs while maintaining the quality of care.
 - D. Legal protections and financial incentives that will increase development and implementation of secure and interoperable health information technology and widespread adoption of electronic health records.

E. Choices when it comes to long-term care service delivery and affordable financing options.

2. **Increase awareness of the individual opportunity and responsibility to uphold and protect personal health**, particularly through a greater emphasis on physical activity, cultivation of healthful dietary habits, avoidance of tobacco, illegal drugs and alcohol, and through rigorous injury prevention programs.
3. **Improve the value each American receives for every health care dollar spent.**
4. **Ensure that businesses, governments and individuals all collaborate and work toward an improved American health care system .**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be sent by the NLGA to the President of the United States, Vice-President of the United States, the Speaker of the U.S. House, Minority Leader of the U.S. House, President Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate, Majority and Minority Leaders of the U.S. Senate, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Chairs of the Democratic and Republican National Committees, and that the NLGA make all state elected officials aware of passage of the resolution through a notice in StateNews magazine, and that the NLGA further post the full text of the resolution to its web page making the resolution available at all times for all NLGA members, state elected official, and other interested parties.

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