

1 **Resolution to Encourage the Washington State Congressional**
2 **Delegation to Co-Sponsor H.R. 676**

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4 **WHEREAS** everyone deserves access to affordable quality healthcare;

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6 **WHEREAS** the number of Americans without health insurance now exceeds 47 million;

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8 **WHEREAS** millions with insurance have coverage so skimpy that a major illness would
9 lead to financial ruin, and medical illness and bills contribute to one-half of all
10 bankruptcies;

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12 **WHEREAS** proposals for “consumer directed healthcare” would worsen this situation
13 by penalizing the sick, discouraging prevention and saddling many working families
14 with huge medical bills;

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16 **WHEREAS** managed care and other market-based reforms have failed to contain
17 healthcare costs, which now threaten the international competitiveness of U.S.
18 manufacturers;

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20 **WHEREAS** administrative waste stemming from our reliance on private insurers
21 consumes one-third of health spending;

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23 **WHEREAS** U.S. hospitals spend 24.3% of their budgets on billing and administration
24 while hospitals under Canada’s single payer system spend only 12.9%;

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26 **WHEREAS** American physicians are inundated with bureaucratic tasks and costs that
27 Canadian physicians avoid;

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29 **WHEREAS** Harvard researchers estimated that more than \$300 billion could be
30 recovered by replacing private insurance companies with a single public payer, enough
31 to cover the uninsured and to improve coverage for all those who now have only partial
32 coverage;

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34 **WHEREAS** “consumer directed healthcare” adds yet another expensive layer of
35 bureaucrats – the financial firms that manage health savings accounts;

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37 **WHEREAS** entrusting care to profit-oriented firms diverts billions of dollars to
38 outrageous incomes for CEOs and threatens the quality of care;

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40 **WHEREAS** The Expanded & Improved Medicare For All Act, which would assure
41 universal coverage of all medically necessary services, contain costs by slashing
42 bureaucracy, protect the doctor patient relationship, assure patients a completely free

43 choice of doctors, and allow physicians a free choice of practice settings;

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45 **WHEREAS** as of May 13, 2018, 122 Democratic members of the U.S. House of
46 Representatives have co-sponsored H.R. 676;

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48 **WHEREAS** as of May 13, 2018, four Democratic members of Congress from
49 Washington have declined to co-sponsor H.R. 676, and no Republican members of
50 Congress from Washington have elected to co-sponsor H.R. 676; and

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52 **WHEREAS** as in January 2018 the Washington State Democrats Central Committee
53 urged Senators Murray and Cantwell to join the other 16 democratic senators as co-
54 sponsors of S.B.1804;

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56 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democrats express support
57 for The Expanded & Improved Medicare For All Act (HR 676), and calls upon the
58 Democratic and Republican members of the Washington State Congressional
59 Delegation who have not already done so to co-sponsor H.R. 676 and S.B. 1804 and to
60 work towards its enactment within the current Congress; and

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62 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to
63 members of the Washington State Congressional Delegation.

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65 Drafted by the Platform Committee.

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67 The Platform Committee recommended that this resolution be passed at their May 20,
68 2018 meeting.

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70 The 2018 Washington State Democratic Convention passed this resolution on June 16,
71 2018.