

**RESOLUTION 012801**

**Supporting Health Care for All.**

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WHEREAS, the Board of Cuyahoga County Commissioners has a long record of commitment to programs and services to promote health and wellness of all County residents; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Cuyahoga County Commissioners has supported a series of initiatives to provide a safety net of health services for low-income families, seniors, and children; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Cuyahoga County Commissioners has continued to provide to MetroHealth Hospital System significant funding from Cuyahoga taxpayers to support the mission of MetroHealth – to provide quality care to all who need it despite ability to pay; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Cuyahoga County Commissioners has successfully undertaken outreach and enrollment efforts to provide Medicaid coverage to more than 100,000 children eligible under Ohio’s Child Health Insurance Program; and

WHEREAS, 165,000 people – more than half of whom are in working families – are without health insurance in Cuyahoga County; and

WHEREAS, for a great majority of people, health care is tied to employment, and workers face an uncertain future as layoffs mount and as insurance premium costs rise sharply; and

WHEREAS, health care should be a right available to all, not a commodity accorded to some; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners supports a health care plan that offers comprehensive and lifetime care for all residents; and

WHEREAS, more than 43 million people in our country, including 11 million children, have no health insurance, and more than 100,000 people lose their health insurance every month; and

WHEREAS, insurance coverage frequently limits access to needed treatment, prescription drugs, dental and vision care; and

WHEREAS, employment in the United States has increasingly changed from full-time to contractual work with no health care benefits, which affects a large number of single mothers and lower income workers; and

WHEREAS, millions of uninsured and underinsured Americans would be bankrupted if they had the misfortune of being hit with a catastrophic illness; and

WHEREAS, the infant mortality rate in some American cities is as high as some third world countries; and

WHEREAS, America ranks only 22nd among the 190 industrialized nations in life expectancy; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has found that the quality of U.S. health care is ranked 37th in the world; and

WHEREAS, our country needs a health care system that promotes wellness and guarantees access to quality health care for everyone, whether employed or not, and that ensures free choice of doctors to preserve the patient/doctor relationship; and

AND, WHEREAS, the United States Congress is once again debating a Patient’s Bill of Rights; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Cuyahoga County, Ohio that said Board supports a Patient's Bill of Rights which ensures free choice of doctors and preserves the patient/doctor relationship such as the bill passed by the United States Senate;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Cuyahoga County supports a not-for-profit publicly funded national health care plan that guarantees comprehensive and lifetime care for all residents and calls upon Congress and President George W. Bush to establish such a system;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners of Cuyahoga County be, and she is, hereby authorized and directed to forward certified copies of this resolution to President George W. Bush; Senator Michael DeWine; Senator George V. Voinovich; U.S. Representatives Dennis Kucinich; Stephanie Tubbs-Jones; Sherrod Brown; Thomas C. Sawyer; Ralph S. Regula; James A. Traficant, Jr.; and Steven LaTourette; Richard Finan, Senate Majority Leader; Larry Householder, Speaker of the House of Representatives; and to Tommy Thompson, Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services; and one copy of this resolution to Joseph Nanni, Senior Administrative Officer, Administrator's Office.

On Motion of Commissioner McCormack, seconded by Commissioner Campbell, the foregoing resolution was duly adopted.

Ayes: McCormack, Campbell, Dimora.

Nays: None.

Resolution Adopted.

Marjorie J. Pettus  
Clerk of the Board

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