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**Resolution Calling on the Washington State Legislature to Pass
a Resolution Calling on Congress to Enact National Health
Care by Passing HR 676**

5WHEREAS a health care crisis exists in our nation; and

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7WHEREAS the platform of the Democratic Party of Washington calls for the “*establishment of a
8comprehensive national health care plan, (as in HR 676: universal single payer healthcare) similar to
9Medicare and available to all, regardless of age or employment*”;

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11**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the attached resolution entitled “*Washington State Legislature
12Resolution Calling on Congress to Enact HR 676, the United States National Health Insurance Act*”
13shall be transmitted to our Legislature urging its adoption.

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15Submitted to the WSDCC for consideration at its January 26, 2008 meeting in Vancouver, WA by the
16Democratic Party of Skagit County

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18Glenn Bordner - Chair, Democratic Party of Skagit County

19Date submitted – January 5, 2008

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21Submitted to the Progressive Caucus of Washington for additional endorsement by Rich Austin on
22January 6, 2008

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24Addendum A

25Text of the Proposed Washington State Legislature Resolution

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**28 A Washington State Legislature Resolution Calling on Congress to Enact HR 676,
29 the United States National Health Insurance Act**

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31WHEREAS every person in Washington and in the United States deserves access to affordable, quality
32health care; and

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34WHEREAS there is a growing crisis in health care in the United States of America, manifested in rising
35health care costs, increased premiums, out-of-pocket spending, decreased international business
36competitiveness, and massive layoffs; and

37WHEREAS Insurance Commissioner Mike Kreidler reported that well over 700,000 residents of
38Washington lacked health insurance in 2006; and

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40WHEREAS those insured now often experience unacceptable medical debt and sometimes life-
41threatening delays in obtaining health care; and

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43WHEREAS one-half of all personal bankruptcies are due to illnesses or medical bills; and

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45WHEREAS the increasing expense of Medicaid and the rising costs of insuring state employees and

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46teachers can best be met not by limiting benefits, but by expanding them under a national, publicly
47funded health insurance program; and

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49**WHEREAS** the complex bureaucracy arising from our fragmented, for-profit, multi-payer system of
50health care financing consumes approximately thirty percent (30%) of the United States health care
51spending; and

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53**WHEREAS** researchers from Harvard University found that in 2003, 780,000 residents of Washington
54were uninsured; that \$27.912 billion was spent on health care in the state that year, and that unnecessary
55administrative costs amounted to \$5.254 billion (\$6,735 per uninsured resident)¹; and

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57**WHEREAS** Representatives John Conyers and Dennis Kucinich have introduced H.R. 676, the United
58States National Health Insurance Act, in the US House of Representatives, and this act would greatly
59reduce administrative costs by hundreds of billions of dollars while providing a universal,
60comprehensive, single payer system of high quality national health insurance;

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62**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WASHINGTON STATE LEGISLATURE:**

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64 Section 1. The Washington Legislature respectfully urges the United States Congress to enact
65 HR 676, the United States National Health Insurance Act sponsored by Representative John
66 Conyers.

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68 Section 2. The Washington State Legislature shall transmit a copy of this Resolution to the
69 President of the United States and the members of the Washington Congressional Delegation.

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71**Addendum B**

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73¹ *Administrative Waste in the US Health Care System in 2003; the Cost to the Nation, the States, and the*
74*District of Columbia, with State-Specific Estimates of Potential Savings* by David U. Himmelstein,
75Steffie Woolhandler and Sidney M. Wolfe.

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