



## Portsmouth Democratic Town Committee

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### RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF RHODE ISLAND SINGLE PAYER LEGISLATION H. 5069 AND S. 154 AND FEDERAL SINGLE PAYER LEGISLATION – HR 676

WHEREAS, between 1991 and 2014, health care spending in RI per person rose by over 250% – rising much faster than income – greatly reducing disposable income;

WHEREAS, 62% of personal bankruptcies were medical cost-related and of these, 78% had health insurance at the time of their bankruptcy;

WHEREAS, health care is “rationed” under our current multi-payer system, despite the fact that Rhode Islanders already pay enough money to have comprehensive and universal health insurance under a single-payer system;

WHEREAS, the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA) cannot control rising premiums, co-pays, deductibles and medical costs, nor prevent private insurance companies from continuing to limit available providers and coverage;

WHEREAS, fully implemented, the ACA will still leave 4% of Rhode Islanders without insurance – resulting in as many as 116 Rhode Islanders dying unnecessarily from lack of insurance each year;

WHEREAS, Rhode Island proposed legislation H. 5069 and S. 154 addresses these problems and:

- Provides comprehensive health care coverage to all Rhode Island residents;
- Improves access to health care;
- Saves approximately \$4000 per resident per year by 2024 and puts more money into the Rhode Island economy;
- Significantly reduces administrative costs (almost \$1 billion in the first year) and shifts these dollars to actual provision of health care;
- Decreases provider administrative burdens and allows them to spend more time providing health care;
- Establishes a funding system that is public and progressive;
- Eliminates health insurance costs and administrative obligations on Rhode Island businesses and make them more competitive and profitable (e.g., in the first year, payroll contributions to a single payer plan would be over \$1.2 billion less than current private health insurance premiums);
- Contains health care costs (reduced administration and control over monopolistic pricing) and saves 23% of current expenditures in the first year with larger savings in subsequent years;
- Creates a significant economic stimulus for the state by attracting businesses to and keeping businesses in Rhode Island because of reduced health insurance costs; and
- Would help government entities eliminate OPEB (Other Post-Employment Benefits) costs relating to skyrocketing health insurance costs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Portsmouth Democratic Town Committee supports the Rhode Island single payer legislation, H. 5069 and S. 154, and federal single payer legislation, including HR 676, and urges our state and federal legislators to vote in favor of these bills.

PORTSMOUTH DEMOCRATIC TOWN COMMITTEE

Attested By: \_\_\_\_\_

Leonard Katzman, Chair