Resolution Supporting Universal Health Coverage

**Whereas** the United States is the only industrial nation in the world without universal health coverage for its citizens (1); and,

**Whereas** almost one-third of the American population, approximately 100,000,000 citizens, are either underinsured or lacking health insurance (2); and,

**Whereas** rates of uninsured vary disproportionately according to income, race/ethnicity and gender (3); and

**Whereas** the increasing trend in lack of access to health care due to financial barriers (4) is compounded by the facts that prescription drug costs have doubled over ten years (5), health insurance premiums are rising 10-15% each year, and the annual American average out-of-pocket health care expenditure has increased by 26% (6); and,

**Whereas** the United States, while spending a higher percentage of its GDP on health than any other country, is ranked 37th in the world for health system performance (7); and,

**Whereas** infant mortality is the second highest in the industrialized world (8) and life expectancy has fallen to 24th in the world (9); and,

**Therefore be it resolved** that Pinal County Democrats support comprehensive universal health care coverage that includes, but is not necessarily limited to, preventive services and health education, access to primary care, chronic disease care, mental health care, oral health care, and vision and hearing services, and

**Be it further resolved** that Pinal County Democrats support health coverage that ensures access to health care regardless of income, age, employment or health status in a manner that will increase positive health outcomes and improve the health status and health equity of all persons.


(2) www.house.gov. Congressman Jesse L. Jackson, Jr. This reference was posted on the Congressman’s website under Health.


References 3-9 and their corresponding information were amended from a resolution by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) Board of Directors, February 26, 2004.