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RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT OBAMA'S  
HEALTH CARE REFORM PRINCIPLES

- WHEREAS municipalities are on the frontline of the health care crisis with high rates of insurance and rapidly escalating costs affecting residents, businesses, and workers; and
- WHEREAS Chapel Hill city government spends significant tax dollars responsibly and appropriately to provide health coverage to its employees, dependents, and retirees - and rising health costs affect the town's ability to provide other services; and
- WHEREAS an undetermined number of Chapel Hill citizens lack health insurance and are less likely than their insured counterparts to receive recommended preventive and screening services, medicines and treatments that meet the professional standard, and are more likely to die prematurely; and
- WHEREAS children in Chapel Hill who may lack health insurance coverage will have fewer well-child visits, the least access to specialists, fewer immunizations and more visits to the emergency room than children with health coverage; and
- WHEREAS millions more of Americans are underinsured and at risk of financial ruin if they experience a major illness; and
- WHEREAS health care costs, and employment-based health insurance premiums in particular, have increased at rates much higher than inflation or wage growth for the last decade; and
- WHEREAS our current health care system focuses on treating disease rather than preventing it or promoting wellness; and
- WHEREAS there are large disparities in health status and health outcomes based on race, ethnicity, and physical ability, and many health care providers do not offer adequate service to patients with limited English proficiency or limited physical or mental ability; and
- WHEREAS public hospitals, clinics, community health centers, and other safety net providers give care to millions of underserved individuals regardless of income, health coverage or immigration status; and

WHEREAS in our local communities, we have developed innovative programs to expand access to quality health care, make health care more affordable, we acknowledge that any comprehensive reform must be led by the federal government; and

WHEREAS leaders in both political parties serving in Congress and the White House have called for the enactment of comprehensive health care reform; and

WHEREAS Senator Hagan has publicly committed to support public option; and

WHEREAS the President has pledged enactment of comprehensive reform this year based on three guiding principles: reduce cost, guarantee choice and ensure affordable care for all – but slow progress is being made in Congress to craft comprehensive reform; and

WHEREAS the mayor and town council, as representatives of their citizens, as employers, as health care providers and as partners to small and larger businesses who struggle with health care costs, should have their voices heard in the crafting of comprehensive reform proposals, and all people should be willing to make some sacrifices to gain a comprehensive health care system for all.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Chapel Hill Town Council supports and calls for the immediate enactment of the Administration's health care reform principles and agrees that comprehensive reform should reduce long-term growth of health care costs for businesses and government while protecting families from debt or bankruptcy; maintain coverage when someone changes or loses a job; end barriers to coverage for people with pre-existing medical conditions; guarantee choice of doctors and health plans; improve patient safety and quality of care; invest in prevention and wellness; and assure affordable, quality health coverage for all Americans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chapel Hill Town Council urges Congress to support the inclusion of a public option in health care reform legislation; support public hospitals and other providers in the health care safety net so that those who fall through the cracks of expanded health care coverage may still receive care.