

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR RESOLUTION NO. 090849

Acknowledging and supporting the Health Commission's Resolution in Support of Essential Health Care Reform Principles and urging national leadership to reform the current health care system.

WHEREAS, the United States spends twice as much per person on health care as other industrialized countries and spends a greater fraction of its national budget on health care than Canada, Germany, France or Japan, but, health outcomes are poorer than expected for the money invested since we rank 44th in the world in life expectancy and 41st in infant mortality; and

WHEREAS, health care costs, and employment-based health insurance premiums, have increased at rates much higher than inflation or wage growth for the last decade; and

WHEREAS, the City of Kansas City, Missouri spends \$35 million to provide health coverage to 4075 employees and their dependents, and rising health costs affect the cities' ability to provide other city services; and

WHEREAS, nearly 47 million Americans lack health insurance, 9 million children lack health insurance coverage and millions more are underinsured; and

WHEREAS, the City of Kansas City utilizes over \$31 million of local health levy funds to support indigent care and many residents still remain without adequate access to quality health care (including mental and dental coverage); and

WHEREAS, access to quality health care is an economic development tool resulting in improved employee attendance, productivity and increased global competitiveness for American businesses; and

WHEREAS, there are disparities in health status and outcomes based on race, ethnicity, and physical ability, and rates of uninsured vary disproportionately by race, ethnicity, income and gender; and

WHEREAS, on September 4, 2009, the Health Commission passed a Resolution In Support of Essential Health Care Reform Principles, urging national health care reform and presented a copy to the City; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF KANSAS CITY:

Section 1. The City acknowledges receipt of and supports the Health Commission's Resolution in Support of Essential Health Care Reform Principles.

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Section 2. The City supports the Health Commission's call for the immediate enactment of essential health care reform principles and agrees that comprehensive, national reform should:

- improve patient safety and quality of care while investing in prevention and wellness;
- ensure affordable, quality health coverage for all Americans;
- maintain coverage when someone changes or loses a job;
- end barriers to coverage for people with pre-existing medical conditions;
- reform the delivery and financing of health care in the penal system;
- reduce long-term growth of health care costs for individuals, businesses and government;
- protect families from bankruptcy or debt because of health care costs;
- and guarantee choice of doctors and health plans.

Section 3. The City, along with the Health Commission, urges the transformation of our national health system to focus on:

- promoting good health and addressing the known determinants of health rather than just mitigating sickness;
 - supporting the provision of comprehensive preventive coverage by all public and private health insurers;
 - ensuring parity for coverage for those with mental disorders and substance addiction;
 - providing for screening and counseling in primary care settings, tobacco-cessation counseling and the prevention of dental decay and cavities in young children;
 - and placing the highest priority on prevention through the Prevention and Wellness Trust Fund to enhance support for individual and community-based interventions known to promote healthy behavior, create healthy environments, and/or reduce the incidence of chronic, infectious and communicable diseases including the treatment thereof.
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