

REQUEST SELECTBOARD TO WARN THIS RESOLUTION FOR A VOTE AT THE 2021
TOWN MEETING OF PUTNEY, VT

Whereas, every person in Putney, VT deserves high quality health care, and everyone's health is at risk when our neighbors cannot receive care; and

Whereas, rationing health care in the United States according to ability to pay has diminished the overall health of our citizens to the point that the U.S. ranks 35th in the world in health outcomes, and even worse for infant mortality and life expectancy, yet ranks first in healthcare costs; and

Whereas, before the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of Americans without health insurance was nearly 30 million with about 50 million Americans underinsured, the pandemic has greatly increased these numbers; e.g. up to 45 million additional people have lost job-related health insurance, with the impacts most severe among our black and brown neighbors; and

Whereas, without new strategies, the never-ending rising costs of health care further challenge our already strapped municipal budget and our small businesses that keep our communities thriving; and

Whereas, the Medicare-for-All Acts of 2019 (H.R.1384 and S.1129) would provide national health insurance for every person in the United States for all necessary medical care, including all primary care, hospital and outpatient services, dental, vision, hearing, maternity and newborn care, women's reproductive services, mental health, prescription drugs and long term care; and

Whereas, the Medicare-for-All Acts of 2019 would provide coverage without copays, deductibles or other out-of-pocket costs, and would slash bureaucracy, protect the doctor-patient relationship and assure patients a free choice of clinicians, without the restrictions imposed by private insurers; and

Whereas, the Medicare-for-All Acts of 2019 would save millions in taxpayer dollars now spent on premiums that often provide inadequate health insurance coverage for government employees; and

Whereas, in 2020 the town of Putney spent \$604,000 on healthcare insurance premiums and other medical costs, but under Improved Medicare-for-All, the only expense for health care would be an 8% payroll tax on employees' salaries, which would amount to approximately \$95,000/yr--a savings of around \$500,000/yr; and

Whereas, the Medicare-for-All Acts of 2019 would result in the elimination of town and school district health insurance premiums and other medical costs and result in significantly lower

property taxes for residents of Putney; and

Whereas, the Healthcare Emergency Guarantee Act of 2020 (H.R.6906 and S.3790) will cover, through Medicare, the costs of COVID-19 related treatment for uninsured Americans as well as all out-of-pocket costs for those with private or public insurance, until an FDA-approved COVID-19 vaccine is widely available to the public, and perhaps beyond that; and

Whereas, the quality of life for the residents of Putney/Windham County will vastly improve because everyone would be able to get preventative and ongoing care, in order to keep themselves and their neighbors healthy and avoid further burdening local resources;

Whereas, the ever-increasing costs of healthcare, which are further elevated due to the pandemic, may challenge our already strapped state and municipal budgets, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED

that the town of Putney hereby endorses federal legislation which will provide universal, comprehensive health coverage with zero cost sharing for all of our community residents during this crisis, such as the Health Care Emergency Guarantee Acts, and beyond, such as the Medicare-for-All Acts of 2019; and be it further

RESOLVED

that the town of Putney, VT calls on Senator Sanders and Leahy and Representative Welch to work vigorously toward the immediate enactment of this, or similar legislation, thus assuring health care coverage as a basic human right for all Americans.