

Resolution Title: Resolution to Support Health Insurance And Universal Healthcare
Submitted by: Professional Staff Congress/CUNY

WHEREAS, the probability, at this time, of achieving universal healthcare nationally is very low; and

WHEREAS, Canada achieved universal healthcare only after the program was adopted by individual provinces; and

WHEREAS, Hawaii is the first and only state in the United States to adopt a successful program of universal healthcare coverage; and

WHEREAS, pressure to adopt a national program for the United States will grow as more states develop a universal healthcare program; and

WHEREAS, the United States spends 15% of its Gross National Product on healthcare, yet the U.S. healthcare system is ranked only 37th best by the World Health Organization; and

WHEREAS, according to the Hunger Action Network of NY State, more than three million New Yorkers still lack healthcare coverage; and

WHEREAS, nationally 45 million Americans lack health coverage; and

WHEREAS, medical treatment is largely controlled by HMOs and insurance firms that increase the cost of health insurance by imposing high administrative fees and overhead; and

WHEREAS, these entities achieve profit by excluding from coverage high risk people and limit the care that those covered can receive; and

WHEREAS, union employees are bearing the burden of increased health insurance costs thus eroding the value of salary increases; and

WHEREAS, unions are finding it increasingly difficult to bargain locally for adequate healthcare coverage for their members; and

WHEREAS, access to good healthcare should be a public entitlement not dependent upon private profit; and

WHEREAS, NYSUT, in its 2004 state legislative program, supported A-1071 that directs the commissioners of the State Insurance Fund to establish a single-payer healthcare plan for all New Yorkers and S-1575, establishing a comprehensive system of universal access to health insurance; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that NYSUT urge AFT to encourage its state locals to work to achieve universal healthcare within their states as an incentive for the development of a national program in the United States; and be it further.

RESOLVED, that NYSUT continue to work with the state legislature to enact such legislation; and be it further

RESOLVED, that NYSUT explore ways of assisting its locals in providing sound healthcare coverage for their members.