

# Resolution to endorse Medicare for All

Moved: Kent Getsinger (DA Australia); Seconded: Siera Burtrum (DA UK)

WHEREAS the United States spends more per capita on healthcare and has the worst health outcomes than any other developed nation on earth;

WHEREAS 70% of Americans support Medicare for All<sup>1</sup>;

WHEREAS Medicare for All would ensure that financial hardship would be relieved among the most marginalised and minority groups;

WHEREAS two-thirds of all the bankruptcies today in the United States are due to medical costs and 80% of those filing for bankruptcy had some kind of health insurance<sup>2</sup>;

WHEREAS one-third of all GoFundMe campaigns in the US are created to pay for medical expenses, a stunning 250,000 campaigns<sup>3</sup>;

WHEREAS Medicare has been the most financially efficient health care system in the United States with administrative costs averaging only 2 percent of program outlays versus 13 percent for private insurance companies<sup>4</sup>;

WHEREAS the United States is projected to save \$2-5 trillion dollars over 10 years after implementation of Medicare For All<sup>5</sup>;

WHEREAS many Democrats Abroad members live in countries where a majority enjoy and benefit from free access to public healthcare;

WHEREAS Democrats Abroad is in a unique position overseas to inform our fellow Americans about examples of successful universal health care and contribute to the campaign for an American Medicare For All system;

WHEREAS Democrats Abroad International Executive Committee has expressed support for the US Senate “Medicare for All” bill and similar legislation in 2017<sup>6</sup>;

WHEREAS Democrats Abroad collected over 350 stories from its members in support of sweeping healthcare reform<sup>7</sup>;

WHEREAS Americans abroad can become ‘healthcare refugees’ unable to return to live in the US due to pre-existing conditions that make them or their family members ‘un-insurable’ or too expensive to insure;

WHEREAS Medicare is not currently portable to Americans living abroad, which creates a hardship for Americans whose health is endangered by living in countries with inadequate healthcare systems and cannot afford to live in the USA;

WHEREAS Americans living overseas fear for the health, and financial security of family members living in the USA;

WHEREAS access to timely and comprehensive healthcare is a fundamental human right;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Democrats Abroad fully endorses Medicare For All; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Democrats Abroad will use its influence to continue a campaign amongst its members to influence US House Representatives to support H.R. 1384 and US Senators to support S. 1804, including lobbying on Capitol Hill; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Democrats Abroad will support Medicare For All in its 2020 Platform; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Democrats Abroad DNC Members will take a Medicare for All resolution to the DNC Summer Meeting 2019, to its caucuses and councils, and to State Party chairs to enlist their support for the campaign for Medicare for All.**

Sources:

<sup>1</sup>Reuters June-July 2018:

<https://www.cnbc.com/2018/08/28/most-americans-now-support-medicare-for-all-and-free-college-tuition.html>

<sup>2</sup>Public Citizen 2019: <https://www.citizen.org/medicare-all-prevents-medical-bankruptcies>

<sup>3</sup>Time Jan 2019: <http://time.com/5516037/gofundme-medical-bills-one-third-ceo/>

<sup>4</sup>Health Affairs: <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/hblog20110920.013390/full/>

<sup>5</sup>Public Citizen "The Case for Medicare for All" Feb 2019, pp. 11-12:

[https://www.citizen.org/sites/default/files/the\\_case\\_for\\_medicare-for-all\\_-\\_february.pdf](https://www.citizen.org/sites/default/files/the_case_for_medicare-for-all_-_february.pdf)

<sup>6</sup>Democrats Abroad Press: <https://www.democratsabroad.org/press>

<sup>7</sup>Democrats Abroad Healthcare Stories: [https://www.democratsabroad.org/healthcare\\_stories](https://www.democratsabroad.org/healthcare_stories)