

RESOLUTION NO. 2

HEALTH CARE FOR ALL

The United States and South Africa are the only industrialized countries with no national health system. The result has been a crisis of rising costs and growing lack of coverage.

Health costs have doubled in the past ten years and will double again at the turn of the century. Our nation cannot handle a system that last year spent \$940 billion or 13% of our gross national product on health care. 37 million people in the U.S. are without health insurance coverage, two-thirds of whom are women and children.

The health of our people is at risk as more and more people lack access to appropriate preventive and primary care. Many are denied access because of disabilities or pre-existing conditions which are considered too costly to insure. Many are employed in what the insurance companies call "black-listed occupations" which are considered too unhealthy for coverage. In addition, another 50 million have inadequate coverage because of cost, co-payments and high deductible health insurance policies.

Health care coverage continues to be a major cause of disputes between labor and management in contract negotiations as management has tried to shift rising costs onto the workers. Working people are forced to give up increases to preserve health benefits. Every worker is at risk of losing health benefits if they lose their jobs.

Women have been severely affected by the health care crisis. Women are more likely to work for small firms or to work parttime and thus are less likely to have health insurance at work. Five million women of reproductive age have no coverage for maternity, and children and young people are the most likely to have no insurance coverage. Women of color and young women are the most likely to suffer from inadequate access to quality health care.

We as women need a health care system that will address our particular health care needs, including breast cancer screening, a full range of reproductive health services, research and education on occupational safety and health at the worksite, research and treatment for AIDS, care for survivors of rape and domestic violence, and promote clinical research on women's health. In the fight for health care reform, we cannot forget the need for pay equity for health care workers, the majority of whom are women.

We now have an historic opportunity to enact a national health care plan which would guarantee everyone in this country access to

quality, affordable and comprehensive health care benefits. The Coalition of Labor Union Women's commitment to single payer health care will provide the principles to evaluate the plan that President Clinton and the Congress debate this year and next. We must mobilize to ensure that a health care plan passes which meets our fundamental principles and serves the needs of working women.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: THAT the Coalition of Labor Union Women fight for the enactment of fundamental health care reform which meets the principles of a single payer system:

1. Universal access
2. Comprehensive benefits, including long-term care, mental health care, reproductive services and abortion
3. Effective and appropriate cost containment
4. Progressive and equitable financing based on ability to pay
5. Individual choice of provider
6. Public accountability

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: THAT CLUW endorses legislation which meets these principles, specifically single payer legislation such as The American Health Security Act (HR 1200 and S 491) introduced by Reps. Jim McDermott and John Conyers and Senator Paul Wellstone.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED: THAT CLUW provide its members with educational materials for aggressively lobbying Congress for fundamental health care reform that meets the principles of single payer national health care.

Submitted by:

New York CLUW
Cleveland Chapter
Los Angeles Chapter
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