

RESOLUTION No. 2008-87-774

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS, FLORIDA, ENDORSING THE HEALTHCARE REFORM PRINCIPALS OF THE NATIONAL AFL-CIO; PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF REPRESENTATIONS; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the standard of comprehensive, affordable healthcare coverage tied to work that unions built over five decades is being eroded by rapidly rising healthcare costs, and

WHEREAS, children and pre-Medicare retirees are at high risk of losing employer-provided health benefits, and

WHEREAS, health expenditures per person in the United States are twice those of the average other industrialized nation, and

WHEREAS, a major factor in high U.S. health expenses is the exorbitant administrative fees associated with private insurance, which average six times higher than administrative costs in Medicare, and

WHEREAS, excessively high health care costs are putting private-sector employers that provide good health benefits at a disadvantage to competitors both internationally and domestically, and

WHEREAS, excessive costs also are threatening the health benefits of public-sector workers, and

WHEREAS, the ranks of uninsured Americans jumped 22 percent from 2000 to 2006 and now number 47 million people, including 8.7 million children, and

WHEREAS, authoritative studies show that Americans receive the right care only half of the time when we take ill, and

WHEREAS, people of color have lower coverage rates, higher mortality rates in many disease categories and poorer quality of care overall, and

WHEREAS, women are less likely to be eligible for or able to afford their part of employer-sponsored healthcare, and

WHEREAS, the Executive Council of the national AFL-CIO voted to launch a renewed effort to win comprehensive healthcare reform for all Americans at its August 2007 meeting,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. ADOPTION OF REPRESENTATIONS: The foregoing Whereas paragraphs are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true, and the same are hereby made a specific part of this Resolution.

Section 2. ENDORSEMENT: The City Council of the City of Miami Gardens hereby endorses the following healthcare reform principals of the national AFL-CIO:

- Controlling rising and irrational healthcare costs;
- Providing comprehensive, high-quality healthcare to all;
- Giving every family the opportunity and responsibility for preventive care;
- Preserving the right to choose and use your own doctor;
- Allowing our government to play a strong role in restoring balance to the system and ensuring more fairness and efficiency;
- Lowering employer costs and encouraging everyone to pay their fair share; and
- Building on what's best about American healthcare while drawing from what works in other countries.

Section 3. EFFECTIVE DATE: This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its final passage.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS AT ITS REGULAR MEETING HELD ON MAY 14, 2008.


SHIRLEY GIBSON, MAYOR

ATTEST:


RONETTA TAYLOR, CMC, CITY CLERK

PREPARED BY: SONJA KNIGHTON DICKENS, ESQ.
City Attorney

SPONSORED BY: COUNCILWOMAN SHARON PRITCHETT

MOVED BY: Councilwoman Pritchett
SECONDED BY: Councilman Gilbert

VOTE: 7-0

Mayor Shirley Gibson	<u> x </u> (Yes)	<u> </u> (No)
Vice Mayor Barbara Watson	<u> x </u> (Yes)	<u> </u> (No)
Councilman Melvin L. Bratton	<u> x </u> (Yes)	<u> </u> (No)
Councilman Aaron Campbell Jr.	<u> x </u> (Yes)	<u> </u> (No)
Councilman Oliver Gilbert, III	<u> x </u> (Yes)	<u> </u> (No)
Councilwoman Sharon Pritchett	<u> x </u> (Yes)	<u> </u> (No)
Councilman André Williams	<u> x </u> (Yes)	<u> </u> (No)

SKD/teh
8100531_1.DOC

City of Miami Gardens

1515 NW 167th Street
Bldg 5., Suite 200
Miami Gardens, Florida 33169



Mayor Shirley Gibson
Vice Mayor Barbara Watson
Councilman Melvin L. Bratton
Councilman Aaron Campbell Jr.
Councilman Oliver Gilbert III
Councilwoman Sharon Pritchett
Councilman André Williams

Agenda Cover Page

Date: May 14, 2008

Fiscal Impact: No Yes

(If yes, explain in Staff Summary)

Funding Source:

Contract/P.O. Requirement: Yes No

Sponsor Name/Department:

Councilwoman Sharon Pritchett

Public hearing

Ordinance

1st Reading

Advertising requirement: Yes No

RFP/RFQ # _____

Quasi-Judicial

Resolution

2nd Reading

Yes No

TITLE

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS, FLORIDA, ENDORSING THE HEALTHCARE REFORM PRINCIPALS OF THE NATIONAL AFL-CIO; PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF REPRESENTATIONS; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Summary

Millions of working Americans do not have health care insurance; those that do are concerned about being able to keep it; while several millions more are concerned about the rising cost of prescription drugs and the quality of health care received. The AFL-CIO union is fighting for high-quality health care for all. Several of their goals include: controlling cost of prescription drugs; preventive care; choice of doctors and other providers.

The unions of the AFL-CIO are mobilizing a 1-million-member team working to secure high—quality health care for all. The City Council of the City of Miami Gardens hereby endorses the reform principles of the national AFL-CIO.