

**RESOLUTION NO. 20080807-050**

**WHEREAS**, every person deserves access to affordable, quality health care; and

**WHEREAS**, the number of Americans without health insurance now exceeds 47 million, and approximately 20 percent of residents in the Austin area do not have health insurance; and

**WHEREAS**, millions of the Americans who have health insurance have coverage that is inadequate to pay the costs of a major illness, leading to financial ruin for many families, and

**WHEREAS**, managed care and other reform efforts have not been effective in containing health care costs, and

**WHEREAS**, it is estimated that U.S. hospitals must devote almost twice as much of their budgets to billing and administration costs than do hospitals operating under Canada's single payer system; and

**WHEREAS**, researchers have estimated that approximately \$300 billion could be recovered by replacing private insurance companies with a single public payer; and

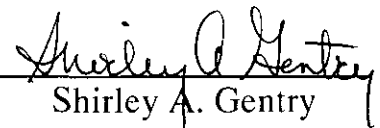
**WHEREAS**, the National Health Insurance Act, also known as the single payer Medicare-for-All bill (H.R. 676), would provide all individuals residing in the United States with access to medically necessary services, including prescription drugs and emergency care, and

**WHEREAS**, the U S Conference of Mayors recently approved a resolution supporting H R. 676, and urging members of Congress to work towards its immediate enactment and the adoption of a process to ensure that health care providers justify any increase in health care costs, **NOW, THEREFORE,**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:**

That the City of Austin supports the United States National Health Insurance Act (H R. 676), endorses the resolution adopted by the U. S. Conference of Mayors, and calls upon Congress to work towards the immediate enactment of H.R. 676.

**ADOPTED:** August 7, 2008

**ATTEST:**   
Shirley A. Gentry  
City Clerk