



## PROCLAMATION IN SUPPORT OF GUARANTEED HEALTHCARE FOR ALL

**WHEREAS** every resident in Sonoma County deserves high-quality healthcare, and

**WHEREAS** the ever-increasing costs of care, which are further elevated due to the pandemic, challenge already strapped municipal budgets, and

**WHEREAS** the pandemic has led to a significant loss of employer-sponsored health insurance; and

**WHEREAS** many women serve as care providers to children, disabled family members, and elder family members and are ineligible for employer-sponsored health insurance; and

**WHEREAS** the vast majority of households and small businesses in Sonoma County would save money under a single-payer healthcare system; and

**WHEREAS** health care providers would be able to focus on efficiently providing the best care possible for all residents if they did not have to also serve as insurance navigators, and

**WHEREAS** the County of Sonoma spends more than \$87 million annually on health insurance for current employees and retirees—much of which could be redirected to other county priorities if those insurance costs were covered under a federal or state single-payer system, and

**WHEREAS** single-payer initiatives such as the federal Medicare for All Act of 2023 and the state's CalCare bill (AB 1690) would provide health insurance that covers all necessary medical care including prescription drugs; hospital, surgical and outpatient services; primary and preventive care; emergency services; reproductive care; dental and vision care; and long-term care; and

**WHEREAS** both the federal Medicare for All Act of 2023 and the state CalCare bill will guarantee that all residents of Sonoma County will be fully covered for healthcare without co-pays, deductibles, or other out-of-pocket costs; and

**WHEREAS** these two acts would save millions in taxpayer dollars now spent on premiums that provide often inadequate health insurance coverage for government employees; and

**WHEREAS** women & members of the LGBTQ community experience lower rates of being insured, greater out-of-pocket costs, and other increased barriers to accessing health care; and

**NOW LET IT BE RESOLVED** that the Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women, does hereby urge the U.S. Congress and the California State legislature to pass legislation to create a single-payer system that will provide all residents with universal, comprehensive, and equitable health coverage.

**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Commission on the Status of Women will send letters to this effect to the County Board of Supervisors and our elected representatives at the state and federal levels.