



Educate. Empower.

Resolution on Health Industry Transparency and Accountability

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WHEREAS, California's health insurance premiums rose 170% between 2002 and 2012, compared to an overall inflation rate of 32%; and

WHEREAS, Unless current trends are reduced, the cost of employer-based family health insurance is projected to surpass median family income by 2033; and

WHEREAS, Soaring health insurance premiums ride substantially on waste and are ultimately financed by lower take-home pay; and

WHEREAS, Unsafe and ineffective care, defined as "waste" by the Institute of Medicine, accounts for an estimated 30% of total U.S. healthcare spending; and

WHEREAS, Quality defects pose serious threats to health and safety and all patients are at risk for receiving unsafe and ineffective care no matter their race, gender, income level, or where they live; and

WHEREAS, In addition to waste, health care spending is high because prices and profits are high, especially in markets where patients lack choice and information is suppressed on prices, quality, outcomes, and costs; and

WHEREAS, Transparency is widely regarded as essential for establishing fair health plan rate setting and provider accountability for good quality and cost outcomes; and

WHEREAS, Unequal power between consolidated healthcare providers and fragmented healthcare purchasers perpetuates price gouging and the upward redistribution of resources; and

WHEREAS, Health costs won't be controlled until we have access to comprehensive information on provider performance and until purchasers work together to strengthen their market position; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That, pursuant to the foregoing, the San Francisco Labor Council delegates will seek, support, and participate in efforts to establish a regional multi-payer database of claims and other health data to establish health system performance transparency while protecting patient confidentiality and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED That the San Francisco Labor Council delegates will foster union member awareness of high health care prices and waste as chief drivers

of workers' medical and insurance costs and work with members, their employers, and local public officials to adopt similar resolutions and pass local and state legislation to establish full quality and cost transparency and fair pricing in the public interest.

Submitted by Bob Muscat, IFPTE 21, and adopted by the San Francisco Labor Council on May 13, 2013.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tim Paulson", with a long horizontal line extending to the left.

Tim Paulson
Executive Director

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