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A Resolution Urging the President and Congress to Uphold Their Promise for Unions to Keep their Current Healthcare Plans Under the Affordable Care Act (ACA)

WHEREAS, our union members and their families originally offered strong political and moral support for the promise of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) because it would expand health care coverage for more Americans, help strengthen the American economy, and help America compete in the global economy; and

WHEREAS, we supported the ACA because it was in the interests of the uninsured to secure many of the benefits our union members already had under our Taft-Hartley Plans, and furthermore the President said in no uncertain terms that we would be able to keep our current health care plans as currently managed; and

WHEREAS, for two years we have sought from the Administration and Congress interpretations to the ACA that merely allows us keep the health plans we currently have: nothing more, nothing less. No special treatment. To date, the Administration has postured on proposals to address the problem, but no proposal to date will actually solve the problem. Our health plans only get worse;

WHEREAS, as a result of Administration inaction to fix the problem, the unintended consequences of the ACA will destroy the 40 hour work week for many workers, lead to higher taxes and force union members onto more costly plans – putting untenable pressure on Taft-Hartley Funds; and

WHEREAS, we are only looking to keep the healthcare plans we have. Nothing more. Nothing less. We are not asking for any special treatment, no additions to what is currently provided by our Taft-Hartley Plans, merely to be allowed to keep the plans we have worked hard to secure for the 65 years we have been governed by the Taft-Hartley law; and

WHEREAS, the Congress and the Administration have demonstrated they have the authority and power to make dozens of other corrections to the ACA, including taking care of big business and well-paid Congressional staff members, but have yet to provide our unions with any relief to allow our healthcare plans to continue as they have for over 65 years; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of the ACA should include interpretations that protect the health coverage of the Taft Harley plans provide for our members; and

WHEREAS, the ACA should not threaten the 40 hour week, and the existence of collectively bargained health care plans; and

WHEREAS, the Taft Hartley plans should be treated just like other health plans and the Taft Hartley plans should have access to the subsidies like other plans.



NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Labor Council urges President Obama and Congress to undertake immediate changes to the implementation and regulation of the ACA.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, we reserve the right to protect the Taft-Hartley Plans we currently have in place, we will view any solution that does not fully address the outlined issues as unacceptable.

Submitted by Conny Ford, OPEIU 3 & Mike Casey, Unite Here 2 and adopted by the Executive Committee of the San Francisco Labor Council on September 3, 2013 and by the delegate body on September 23, 2013.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tim Paulson", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Tim Paulson
Executive Director

OPEIU3 AFL-CIO 11