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Resolution in Support of Cal Care (AB 1400)

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WHEREAS every person in California deserves high quality health care; and

WHEREAS employers spend on average nearly \$15,000 a year for each employee's family health insurance plan with the costs continuing to rise, placing an enormous financial burden on businesses, inhibiting new businesses from opening due to large start-up costs, and leading growing numbers of employers to drop health coverage for employees; and

WHEREAS employer demands for reductions in their health care costs by shifting costs to employees in the form of higher deductibles, coinsurance, co-pays, and cuts in covered services or in-network providers is a leading cause of strikes and other labor disputes; and

WHEREAS removing health coverage from contract negotiations would enhance the opportunity for businesses and workers to negotiate higher wages, which would increase worker spending, putting more money into local economies as well as providing for more tax revenue for local communities; and

WHEREAS the number of Californians without health insurance before the Covid-19 pandemic was nearly 2.7 million, with 12 million Californians underinsured, despite important gains made since the implementation of the Affordable Care Act; and

WHEREAS communities of color are disproportionately represented among the uninsured, underinsured, and subjected to medical debt, medical bankruptcies, and homelessness due to medical bills, which has an adverse impact on those families and the entire community; and

WHEREAS the current Covid-19 pandemic has led to record levels of unemployment, loss of employer-sponsored health insurance, a severely strained health care system, widespread illness, and has taken a profound toll on our community's mental health, all of which is placing significant demands on our health care system, and

WHEREAS the Covid-19 pandemic further exposed the dangers of our fragmented, profit-driven health care system, which leads many Californians to delay seeking needed health care due to an inability to pay, leading to a sicker and poorer population in the long run; and

WHEREAS such a population is significantly more likely to develop serious illness if exposed to diseases like Covid-19 and will subsequently face higher mortality rates; and

WHEREAS the ever-increasing costs of health care, which are further elevated due to the pandemic, may challenge our already strapped state and municipal budgets; and

WHEREAS the California Guaranteed Health Care for All Act (AB 1400) would guarantee health care free at the point of service for every person in California for 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 the California Guaranteed Health Care for All Act would provide coverage without copays, deductibles, or other out-of-pocket costs, and would slash bureaucracy, protect the doctor-patient relationship, and assure patients a free choice of doctors; and

WHEREAS the California Guaranteed Health Care Act would save millions in taxpayer dollars now spent on premiums that provide often inadequate health insurance coverage for government employees; and

WHEREAS recent polls show that a majority of Californians support a “Medicare for All” type program and

WHEREAS the present presidential administration has the policy to empower states, as laboratories of democracy, to use Affordable Care Act innovation waivers to develop locally tailored approaches to health coverage, including by removing barriers to states that seek to experiment with state-wide universal health care approaches;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the CONTRA COSTA CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL expresses its enthusiastic support for the California Guaranteed Health Care for All Act (AB 1400) and calls upon our state legislators to work toward its immediate enactment.