



# INTERDEPARTMENTAL MEMO

TO: City Council  
FROM: Mayor Bieter  
DATE: September 3, 2009  
SUBJECT: Proposed Health Care Reform Resolution

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As you know, health care reform is one of the most pressing challenges facing our nation. Congress and the Obama administration continue to work to address these issues, and citizens, businesses and interest groups across the country are contributing their views to the debate.

Because the future of health care holds such profound implications for local governments and the economies and citizens we serve, the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the National League of Cities have asked cities to weigh in on the discussion. Attached is a draft, non-binding resolution that I believe articulates where the City of Boise, as a municipal government entity, should stand.

I would like to schedule this resolution for Council discussion and consideration at our regular Sept. 15, 2009 meeting. Before then, I welcome your thoughts and suggestions.

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

BY THE COUNCIL:

BISTERFELDT, CLEGG, EBERLE,  
JORDAN, SHEALY AND TIBBS

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BOISE, IDAHO, SUPPORTING COMPREHENSIVE, ACCESSIBLE, AFFORDABLE AND UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE FOR AMERICANS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, nearly 46 million Americans lack health insurance and are less likely than their insured counterparts to receive recommended preventive and screening services or medicines and treatments that meet the professional standard, and are more likely to die prematurely; and

**WHEREAS**, nearly 9 million children lack health insurance coverage and therefore have fewer well-child visits, worse access to specialists, fewer immunizations and more visits to the emergency room than children with health coverage; and

**WHEREAS**, this epidemic of underinsurance not only has catastrophic effects on the health of millions of Americans but also leaves millions more at risk of financial ruin if they experience a major illness; and

**WHEREAS**, health care costs, and employment-based health insurance premiums in particular, have increased at rates much higher than inflation or wage growth for the last decade, and these costs are unsustainable for families, companies, governmental entities, and the nation, and negatively impact our overall economic vitality and global competitiveness; and

**WHEREAS**, America's cities and towns collectively constitute the nation's fourth-largest employer and as such are providing health care coverage to millions of their employees, retirees and their families, at a cost that has risen nearly 120 percent over the past 10 years, more than triple the rate of inflation; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Boise's geographic remoteness and our high rate of employer turnover make us especially vulnerable to the inadequacies of the current health care system, which can dampen the entrepreneurial activity that is so vital to our community's economic well-being.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BOISE CITY, IDAHO:**

**Section 1.** That the City of Boise urges the federal government to address the current health care crisis through a series of legislative reforms designed to reduce long-term growth of health care costs for businesses and government; protect families from bankruptcy or debt because of health care costs; guarantee choice of doctors and health plans; invest in prevention and wellness; improve patient safety and quality of care; assure affordable, quality health coverage for all Americans; maintain coverage when someone changes or loses a job; and end barriers to coverage for people with pre-existing medical conditions.

**Section 2.** That the City of Boise urges Congress and the Administration to address issues related to the currently unsustainable cost of health care by adopting marketplace reforms, creating and implementing information technology structures, establishing quality standards, and ensuring better alignment of needs and resources to help reduce the growth in health care costs.

**Section 3.** That the City of Boise urges Congress and the Administration to achieve the goal of health care for all Americans by expanding existing public sector health care programs, such as Medicare, State Children’s Health Insurance Program, and Medicaid, including a public health plan option, maintaining cost-effective and efficient private-sector health insurance options, and addressing access and disparity issues in health care experienced by many Americans.

**ADOPTED** by the Council of the City of Boise, Idaho, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of September, 2009.

**APPROVED** by the Mayor of the City of Boise, Idaho this \_\_\_\_\_ day of September, 2009.

**APPROVED:**

**ATTEST:**

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MAYOR

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY CLERK