

RESOLUTION NO. 288

URGING THE U.S. CONGRESS TO APPROVE HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 676 ASSURING NECESSARY MEDICAL CARE FOR ALL AMERICANS

Introduced: 6/11/07

By Messrs. Steck, Collins, Mss. Willingham, Wiley, Messrs. McCoy, Nichols and Ward:

WHEREAS, Every person in Albany County and in the United States deserves access to affordable, quality health care, and

WHEREAS, The existence of thousands of public and private insurance providers and regulators has resulted in extraordinarily complex health care business procedures that consume almost one third of the nation's expenditures for health care, and

WHEREAS, Albany County's annual cost for Medicaid in 2006 reached \$54 million, or 80.6% of the County tax levy and 11.66% of the annual budget, and

WHEREAS, Rationing health care according to ability to pay has diminished the overall health of the nation's citizens to the point at which the United States ranks 36th in quality by the World Health Organization, and as many as 100 million citizens are denied appropriate health care in any year, and

WHEREAS, Statistics show that the greatest barrier to health care is poverty and that inequalities in health care diminish not only the well-being of the nation's citizens but also their ability to work and prosper, and

WHEREAS, The failure to provide affordable and appropriate preventive health care services places unnecessary and more costly demands upon Albany County's emergency health care services, and

WHEREAS, House Resolution 676, also known as the U.S. National Health Insurance Act and Medicare for All, would cover every person in the United States for all necessary medical care, including prescription drugs, hospital, surgical, outpatient services, primary and preventive care, emergency services, dental and vision care, and

WHEREAS, Seventy members of Congress, including Congressman Michael McNulty and nine others from New York State, so far have signed on in support, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Albany County Legislature endorses HR 676 and calls on the Congress of the United States to pass this bill assuring appropriate and efficient health care for all residents of the United States, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the County Legislature is directed to forward certified copies of this resolution to the Congressional leadership and to the appropriate County Officials.

Adopted by voice vote. 6/11/07