



RESOLUTION # 40-8/08

TO: HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE
LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ITEM #:

BOARD ACTION

Adopted: 8-21-08
For: 28
Against: 4
Abs/Excd: 3
Vote Req: _____
Other Action: _____

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTION

Adopted: 8-13-08
For: 7
Against: 1
Abs/Excd: 1

RE: REFERENDUM QUESTION REQUESTING STATE LEGISLATIVE ACTION ON HEALTHCARE ON THE NOVEMBER BALLOT

WHEREAS, escalating health insurance costs are a major hardship for La Crosse County residents, businesses, and local units of government; and,

WHEREAS, such high costs discourage business expansion and job creation in La Crosse County, and burden individual citizens with increased hardship and the fear of losing health insurance coverage; and,

WHEREAS, in Wisconsin an estimated 11% or approximately 593,000 people are without health insurance and many more are underinsured; and,

WHEREAS, in 2001 roughly 77% of Wisconsinites under 65 received healthcare coverage from their employer and in 2004 only 65% received coverage through their job; and,

WHEREAS, as healthcare costs have doubled on the average every 8 years for the past 40 years, so by the year 2018 healthcare plan costs may reach \$20,000 per person per year; and,

WHEREAS, by some measures the La Crosse area has among the highest health care costs in the nation, including the highest physician costs in the United States, and the tenth highest hospital prices, according to a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report; and,

WHEREAS, local governments, such as La Crosse County, which spent \$9,267,991 for health insurance in 2001 and \$14,763,676 in 2007, have a hard time controlling their budgets due to runaway healthcare costs and budgetary constraints from imposed revenue caps; and,

WHEREAS, these skyrocketing healthcare costs in the La Crosse County area are a result of changes in the healthcare and insurance markets which are beyond the control of La Crosse County; and,

WHEREAS, despite the steep escalation in health insurance costs, the State Legislature, which does have the power to remedy this situation, has failed to seriously consider comprehensive healthcare reform; and,

WHEREAS, the following advisory referendum question is an effective way to determine whether the citizens of La Crosse County believe that the next session of the State Legislature should take action:

Shall the next State Legislature enact health care reform legislation by December 31, 2009 that guarantees every Wisconsin resident affordable health care coverage as good as what is provided to State legislators?

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the La Crosse County Board hereby directs the County Clerk to place the question set forth above on the November ballot as an advisory referendum question.

RE: REFERENDUM QUESTION REQUESTING STATE LEGISLATIVE ACTION ON HEALTHCARE ON THE NOVEMBER BALLOT

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the area legislators, Governor Jim Doyle and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

FISCAL NOTE: No cost to La Crosse County.

Date: 8-13-08
[Signature]
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Date: 8-13-08
Cheryl A. Stephen
RECORDING CLERK

	Recommended	Not Recommended	Reviewed Only	
Co. Admin.	<u>SO</u>	_____	_____	Requested By: Tara Johnson
Fin. Director	<u>BT</u>	_____	_____	Date Requested: July 30, 2008
Corp. Counsel	_____	_____	<u>JL</u>	Drafted By: Corporation Counsel

Adopted by the La Crosse County Board this 21 Day of AUGUST, 2008

STATE OF WISCONSIN
COUNTY OF LA CROSSE

I, Marion I. Naegle, County Clerk of La Crosse County do hereby certify that this document is a true and correct copy of the original resolution required by law to be in my custody and which the County Board of Supervisors of La Crosse County adopted at a meeting held on the 21st day of August 2008.

Marion I. Naegle
Marion I. Naegle, La Crosse County Clerk