



RESOLUTION # 28-7/09

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

ITEM # 12/7

BOARD ACTION

Adopted:
For: 31
Against: 1
Abs/Excd: 2
Vote Req: _____
Other Action: 1
ABSTAIN

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES BOARD ACTION

Adopted:
For: 6
Against: —
Abs/Excd: 3

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ACTION

Adopted:
For: 3
Against: 1
Abs/Excd: 2

RE: URGING IMMEDIATE PASSAGE OF COMPREHENSIVE FEDERAL HEALTH REFORM LEGISLATION

WHEREAS, experts from across the political spectrum agree that America's health system is "broken" and unsustainable in its present configuration; and,

WHEREAS, about 2000 families in La Crosse County are experiencing this crisis right now, confronting the high cost of health care that threatens their financial stability, leaves them exposed to higher premiums and deductibles, and puts them at risk for a possible loss of health insurance; and,

WHEREAS, employer-sponsored health insurance premiums have nearly doubled in recent years making it increasingly difficult for employers, including county governments, to provide health insurance coverage for their employees and retirees; and,

WHEREAS, millions of Americans do not have health coverage, or have inadequate coverage and as our economic challenges multiply, the problem of health care access grows, further straining counties' capacity to provide care for the uninsured, underinsured and medically indigent; and,

WHEREAS, La Crosse County has seen a dramatic increase in recent years of applications for Medicaid, BadgerCare and other public assistance programs; and,

WHEREAS, county officials are elected to protect the health and welfare of their constituents; and,

WHEREAS, La Crosse County taxpayers wind up subsidizing health care costs through the provision of jail health care services, mental health and substance abuse services, public health, indigent health care and picking up the non-federal share of a number of Medicaid programs; and,

WHEREAS, the National Association of Counties (NACo) Health System Reform Working Group, appointed by President Don Stapley in July 2008 and chaired by President-Elect Valerie Brown, has held three regional hearings to explore the health crisis and to hear what county officials believe should be done about it and has summarized its findings in *Restoring the Partnership for American Health: Counties in a 21st Century Health System* which was approved and adopted by resolution of the NACo Health Steering Committee and Board of Directors on March 9, 2009.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors endorses NACo's health reform principles, as summarized in *Restoring the Partnership for American Health: Counties in a 21st Century Health System*; namely, that reform legislation should:

1. Restore the partnership between county and federal governments;
2. Provide access to affordable, quality health care to all;
3. Invest in public health, including health promotion and disease and injury prevention;
4. Stabilize and strengthen the local health care safety net system, especially Medicaid and disproportional share hospital (DSH) payments;
5. Invest in the development of the health professional and paraprofessional workforce;
6. Ensure that county health agencies have the resources to meaningfully use health information technology;


RE: URGING IMMEDIATE PASSAGE OF COMPREHENSIVE FEDERAL HEALTH REFORM LEGISLATION
Page 2


- 7. Enable elderly and disabled persons to receive the services they need in the least restrictive environment; and
- 8. Reform the delivery and financing of health services in the jail system.

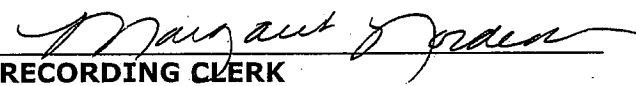
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board strongly urges the 111th Congress of the United States to enact comprehensive health reform legislation without delay before the end of its first session.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be sent to President Obama, US Senators Feingold and Kohl, US Rep. Kind, National Counties Association and Wisconsin Counties Association.

FISCAL NOTE: There are no fiscal obligations for the county for this resolution.

Date: 7-7-09

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES BOARD CHAIR

Date: 7-6-09

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR


RECORDING CLERK



RECORDING CLERK

	Reviewed Only	Recommended	Not Recommended	
Co. Admin.	<u>50</u>	_____	_____	Requested By: Gerald R. Huber Date Requested: 6/30/09 Drafted By: Gerald R. Huber
Fin. Director	<u>OT</u>	_____	_____	
Corp. Counsel	<u>WAS</u>	_____	_____	
Bd. Chair	<u>500</u>	_____	_____	

Adopted by the La Crosse County Board this 16th Day of JULY, 2009.

STATE OF WISCONSIN
 COUNTY OF LA CROSSE

I, Linda A. Stone, 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 16th day of July, 2009.


 Linda A. Stone, La Crosse County Clerk