

# Health Care



Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative

# Health Care for All! Resolution

**WHEREAS:** Over 600,000 Marylanders have no health insurance and hundreds of thousands of others have inadequate health care coverage, and

**WHEREAS:** At least 80% of the uninsured and the underinsured are workers and their families; and

**WHEREAS:** Persons without adequate health care coverage both suffer significantly worse health problems than those with adequate health insurance, and cost society substantial money through use of hospital emergency rooms and because of untreated disease and disability; and

**WHEREAS:** Uninsured Marylanders, including seniors and others on Medicare without prescription drug coverage, pay un-affordably high amounts for prescription drugs; and,

**WHEREAS:** There is strong evidence that the conversion of CareFirst Blue Cross/Blue Shield to a for-profit entity would not be in the best interest of the people of Maryland; and,

**WHEREAS:** Increasing taxes on tobacco products significantly reduces teen tobacco use, reduces long-term health care costs statewide, and raises substantial money for the state, as demonstrated by Maryland's 30 cents per pack tax increase in 1999 which helped reduce tenth grade smoking in Maryland by 30% and raised an additional \$80 million in the first year alone; and,

**WHEREAS:** Maryland has made progress in expanding health care access through the hospital all-payer system, the small group insurance system, and by providing health care coverage for children in families up to 300% of poverty and pregnant women up to 250% of poverty; and,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** That the undersigned organization affirms its commitment to the development of a plan that will achieve quality, affordable health care for all Marylanders and endorses the following key components of such a plan:

- √ Maintaining CareFirst Blue Cross/Blue Shield as a strong non-profit health insurer with a more community-oriented Board and requiring CareFirst to play a major role in achieving quality, affordable health care for all Marylanders.
- √ Increasing Maryland's cigarette tax by 36 cents per pack, with proportionate increases in the tax on other tobacco products, in order to help fund quality, affordable health care for all Marylanders and to reduce teen smoking.
- √ Authorizing the State to negotiate with drug manufacturers for fair prescription drug prices for seniors and others without prescription drug insurance coverage.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the undersigned organization will educate its members and, to the extent that it is able, educate the general public and opinion leaders, about its endorsement of this Resolution.

Organization \_\_\_\_\_ No of Members \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name (and Title) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Best way to contact you (check one box):**       Email       Fax       Phone

**NOTE:** Signing this Resolution does not imply endorsement of the Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative's final plan to be released before the end of 2002 or any specific proposal not in this Resolution.

Please return to: [Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative Education Fund, 2600 Saint Paul St, Baltimore, MD 21218](mailto:schneider@mdinitiative.org)  
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