RESOLUTION CALLING ON CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM TO PURSUE EXPANDED STATE INNOVATION WAIVERS FOR HEALTHCARE WITHIN THE FIRST 100 DAYS OF THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

WHEREAS the Santa Clara County Democratic Party recognizes that the COVID-19 Pandemic has heightened the need for California to take the lead to guarantee health care to all. California as the 5th largest economy in the world and the most populous state in the union must be the lifesaving example not only for its residents but the rest of the nation, especially when over 80% of Californian Democrats support a "Medicare for All" by Single Payer type healthcare system; and

WHEREAS the pandemic and the racial unrest in California and across this country have laid bare the inequities and disparities in our healthcare system. People of Color are disproportionately affected by Covid-19 and injurious violence. It is imperative that we move to a Single-Payer healthcare system which will pivot our for-profit driven healthcare system to one that focuses on public health in a more democratic manner; and

WHEREAS Governor Gavin Newsom not only ran his winning gubernatorial campaign with Single Payer as a platform issue, on his first day in office he urged the Trump Administration and other lawmakers to allow states like California to innovate and tear down federal obstacles to help solve some of its most pressing problems such as the health care emergency (See https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/1.7.19-Letter-to-the-White-House-and-Congress.pdf);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Clara County Democratic Party calls on Governor Gavin Newsom to resubmit his January 7, 2019 letter to the Biden Administration and other lawmakers within the first 100 days of the Biden administration; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage other local organizations and elected officials to pass a similar resolution or letter of support calling on Governor Gavin Newsom to pursue expanded state innovation waivers to allow California to create a Single Payer Healthcare system, as allowed by the Affordable Care Act Law, and as indicated in the California Democratic Party Platform, in the first 100 days of the Biden Administration.

Submitted by Margaret Okuzumi