

## **Northfield Resolution for Healthcare Financing Reform**

**WHEREAS**, the United States spends nearly twice as much per capita on healthcare as the average of comparable countries and yet ranks only 35<sup>th</sup> in the world by global health standards, including such critical barometers as average life expectancy, infant mortality, maternal mortality, and death from preventable diseases; and

**WHEREAS**, the inability to pay medical bills continues to be a leading cause of personal bankruptcy, and people should never face bankruptcy as a result of needing care; and

**WHEREAS**, the COVID19 pandemic has caused millions of people (including Northfielders) to lose their jobs and health insurance, exposes why employer based insurance must be eliminated; and

**WHEREAS**, our profit based healthcare system discriminates according to race, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, age, socioeconomic status, and where one lives and;

**WHEREAS**, Northfield Hospital & Clinics President & CEO reported in July 2019 that • the most significant change to health care over the last 5 years has been the shifting of the responsibility for the cost of care to patients through high-deductible insurance plans, which is the dominant model locally, • that these plans are detrimental to lower-earning families, because from 2008-18 deductibles grew more than 212%, while wages rose 26%, • that the Hospital's debt obligation for unpaid care was \$1 million to \$1.5 million from 2015-18 (SOUTHERNMINN.COM 7-24-19); and

**WHEREAS**, smaller communities, such as Northfield, are handicapped in economic development with small businesses and entrepreneurs unable to compete and grow without affordable health insurance for their employees and themselves; and

**WHEREAS**, in the city of Northfield fulltime city employee family coverage costs \$13,417 per person in 2020 for a total of \$1,167,305 with the city paying 74% (\$885,292) impacting the city's budget and;

**WHEREAS**, there is legislation that will transition US healthcare to a single payer system based on income; containing costs with universal coverage, improving efficiency, completely eliminating private insurance premiums, deductibles, co-pays, and other out-of-pocket costs, and allowing negotiated prescription drug prices, as most countries do;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the City of Northfield, MN supports the Medicare for All Act of 2019 (HR 1384) and the Minnesota Health Plan, a state based bill (SF 1125 / HF 1200)

**BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED**, the City of Northfield will notify Minnesota's State Legislators and Congressional Delegation of its support; and Council Members and other City officials will encourage them to sign on to the Minnesota Health Plan and Medicare for All Act of 2019 as co-sponsors.