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**RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION OF
PROPOSED HEALTH CARE REFORM**

WHEREAS, The United States has the world's best health care system, but it is being priced out of reach for more and more American citizens and companies. Companies struggle to find health care plans that provide adequate coverage and are still affordable, and worry about what will come next year; and

WHEREAS, the Lake Travis Chamber of Commerce, under various names, has been working for and with local businesses to create a positive economic environment in Western Travis County, Texas for over twenty two years and is currently the voice of an average of 400 businesses; and

WHEREAS, the Lake Travis Chamber of Commerce recognizes that most health care coverage is provided by employers; to make it easier for employers and their employees to afford the health care coverage they need, we **SUPPORT** legislative action to:

- Retain viable employer-sponsored health care. Employers provide voluntary health insurance to over 177 million. ERISA allows many of them the flexibility to provide uniform benefits and is the backbone of employer provided coverage and must be preserved.
- Reform the delivery system including payment and reimbursement reform to reduce costs while increasing quality and outcomes including: implementation of comprehensive strategies to boost health information technology, wellness, prevention, disease management and care coordination.
- Create a more vibrant private health insurance market for individuals and small businesses.
- Control soaring health care costs due to the explosive growth in medical liability awards and insurance costs through specialized health courts.
- Encourage more Americans to purchase health insurance by enacting refundable tax credits for that purpose.
- Encourage more Americans to save for medical expenses tax-free by expanding Health Savings Accounts and allowing those with Flexible Spending Accounts to roll over unused balances to pay for future medical expenses.

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WHEREAS, the Lake Travis Chamber of Commerce **OPPOSES** legislative action that will:

- Create a Government-run (public) plan: A government-run plan would be an unfair competitor, with the government acting as both a team owner and the referee. Government programs shift costs to the private sector. The Lewin Group estimates 130 million people would move from private sector to public insurance. This could lead to a government-controlled single-payer system.
- Create Employer Mandates: Punishing employers who cannot afford to provide health insurance coverage, including requirements to pay or play, is not the answer. Employer mandates, by their nature limit flexibility and innovation – the cornerstones of American health care.
- Create Minimum Required Coverage Level: Proposing a huge Federal Employee Health Benefits Program (FEHBP)-like minimum coverage package will bankrupt employers and workers. High-end coverage like this will not appeal to the young. The minimum level of coverage should be reflective of a high-deductible health plan with coverage of preventative services.
- Impose additional tax burdens individuals or businesses: The implementation of new taxes and fees for businesses and/or individuals that cannot afford health insurance would be dramatically counterproductive. Further, the taxation of health benefits will lead to a reduction in benefits offered by employers and will lead to higher taxes for many individuals and businesses.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that **the Board of Directors of the Lake Travis Chamber of Commerce OPPOSES the passage of legislation that is currently proposed by the President of the United States and Congress** which will create a public insurance plan and employer mandates and major tax increases including imposing an additional “surtax” on high income earners.

AND, SUPPORTS the position of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the Texas Association of Business and their efforts to be the voice of business at a state and national level.

Adopted this 10th day of November, 2009.



Beth Byer, Chairman of the Board 2009



Laura Mitchell, President

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