Resolution Endorsing Legislative Proposals
For Universal Health Care

Whereas, American Library Association Policy 54.20 ("Comprehensive Health Care") states that "ALA recognizes the importance of comprehensive health care for all Americans and its impact on libraries and their users"; and

Whereas, The ALA joined the Universal Health Care Action Network (UHCAN) by resolution on January 18, 2005; and

Whereas, On June 28, 2006, the ALA endorsed a resolution supporting HR 676, "Expanded Medicare for All," calling for a single-payer, universal health-care program; and

Whereas, The rapidly rising cost of health-care benefits continues to inhibit the ability of libraries to create career opportunities for librarians and library workers, stunts improvements in wages, and thereby threatens the future of our profession and our libraries; and

Whereas, The rising cost of providing health insurance has placed enormous burdens on state and local governments, making it increasingly difficulty for them to adequately fund schools and libraries; and

Whereas, 46 million people in the United States have no health insurance; and

Whereas, Uninsured and underinsured working people often face financial ruin in the event of a medical emergency, which negatively impacts our communities; and

Whereas, Without good health, humankind cannot truly exercise intellectual freedom and civic engagement; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the American Library Association (ALA):

1. Reaffirms its support for affordable universal health care, including the option of a single-payer health care program; and

2. Sends a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States and to all U.S. Senators and U.S. Representatives.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association
Wednesday, July 15, 2009
In Chicago, Illinois

Keith Michael Fiels
ALA Executive Director and ALA Council Secretary