



League of United Latin American Citizens

RESOLUTION CHAMPIONING HEALTH CARE

WHEREAS, the human right to health and health care has long been globally-recognized and yet health care in the United States continues to be treated as a commodity and privilege; and

WHEREAS, the United States remains the only highly developed industrial democracy to deny universal health care coverage to all its citizens, is the only country where medical expenses are a contributing (if not leading) cause of personal bankruptcies, and is the only country where employer provided healthcare coverage is commonly material in employment decisions; and

WHEREAS, exhaustive scholarship has established that Latinos experience persistent and pervasive health disparities and the American Healthcare Act, passed by the House, betrays Latino families, women, veterans, seniors, the poor, and individuals with pre-existing conditions; and

WHEREAS, health care policy is not limited to medical and mental health coverage but includes matters such as medical training institutions and the shortage of primary care physicians across our nation, access to critical safety net resources for pregnant women and partners in crisis, and the availability and provision of healthy food, water and environments (both residential and employment) to all; and

WHEREAS, medical and mental health insurance coverage itself does not assure access to adequate care, as excessive or oppressive premiums, deductibles, and/or co-pays commonly result in financial barriers to appropriate health care; and

WHEREAS, physician-assisted suicide does not constitute health care and the practice of distributing a pharmaceutical poison to the medically dependent and emotionally vulnerable, particularly where individuals and families are financially burdened by severe illness and not provided access to appropriate palliative care and caregiver supports, is unconscionable; and

WHEREAS, physician-assisted suicide and profit based hospital care, contribute to, if not cause, the stifling of fair access and the just measure of care for disadvantaged and vulnerable populations in medical systems; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Deacon Sal Alvarez, M.S.W. (1940-2015), Chair of the LULAC National Health Care Commission, strongly advocated for universal health care, strongly opposed physician-assisted suicide and for-profit hospitals, and championed the passage of the Affordable Care Act of 2012;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that LULAC vigorously opposes repeal of the Affordable Care Act of 2012 and calls for bipartisan action by States, Congress and the President to improve and advance universal access to health care; and shall continue championing universal health care, including mental health care, palliative care and caregiver supports; and shall continue to oppose physician-assisted suicide.

Voted & approved by the National Assembly of the 2017 LULAC National Convention on July 8, 2017.

Roger C. Rocha, Jr.
LULAC National President