



**CITY OF EASTHAMPTON
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

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**CITY OF EASTHAMPTON RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF
MEDICARE FOR ALL/SINGLE PAYER HEALTH CARE**

WHEREAS, nearly 200,000 Massachusetts residents lack health insurance and many more, even with insurance, are unable to access care due to high out of pocket costs; and

WHEREAS, access to affordable, quality health care is a human right and a fundamental component of a decent and just society; and

WHEREAS, a Single Payer system will guarantee comprehensive medical coverage for all residents of Easthampton regardless of socioeconomic status and without copays, deductibles, or other out of pocket expenses and will eliminate “networks” and “tiers” that limit provider choice; and

WHEREAS, the continued rise in costs of employment-based health insurance negatively affects our local economy by forcing businesses and municipalities to reduce staffing, defer raises, and hire more workers on a part-time basis; and

WHEREAS, the rising costs of health care are a significant burden to Easthampton’s already strapped municipal budget and to the small businesses and entrepreneurs that that help keep our community thriving; and

WHEREAS, the city of Easthampton in FY 2019 would have incurred substantial cost savings on health coverage for city, school district, and retired employees under the proposed Single Payer bill in Mass. and be relieved of the lion’s share of its OPEB liability; and

WHEREAS, 76% of Easthampton voters approved a Single Payer ballot question in November, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the State Representative for Easthampton is a cosponsor of the proposed state Medicare for All legislation;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Easthampton, MA supports legislation that would provide equitable, affordable, and accessible health care at least equal to the currently offered health care plan provided to Easthampton’s employees and retirees, and this level of care be extended to all other residents of the City and the Commonwealth; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we support *An Act Establishing Medicare for All in Massachusetts (S683/H1194)* and call on our State Senator and State Representative to work for its immediate passage.

Approved on the 18th day of December, 2019.

The block contains five horizontal lines, each with a handwritten signature in blue ink. The signatures are: 1. Joseph P. McCoy, 2. [Illegible], 3. [Illegible], 4. [Illegible], and 5. [Illegible].