MEDICARE FOR ALL

WHEREAS, the health care delivery system in the United States is severely flawed and has reached a crisis level; and

WHEREAS, the Affordable Care Act is under constant attack of being repealed without any alternative, causing millions to lose their health care coverage; and

WHEREAS, access and affordability to quality health care for all Americans should be a right and not a privilege in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, under the current health care programs, the U.S. cost per person covered is 250 percent of the cost per person of other free-market countries. Yet, the U.S. ranks last among 11 industrialized countries on measures of health system quality of care, efficiency, access to care, equity and healthy lives provided; and

WHEREAS, Medicare is a national health insurance program in the U.S. that began in 1966 and provides health insurance for Americans aged 65 and older, and younger people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, Medicare provided health insurance for more than 58 million individuals – more than 49 million people ages 65 and older and about 9 million younger people; and

WHEREAS, more than 70 percent of the people polled supported "Medicare For All"; and

WHEREAS, both Houses of Congress have introduced legislation that advances the concept of "Medicare For All"; and

WHEREAS, the affordability and access to health care is the number one issue that needs to be addressed in the upcoming 2020 presidential and congressional elections.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that OPEIU supports current and future legislation that advances the implementation of a "Medicare For All;" and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that OPEIU will support candidates, both presidential and congressional, that will champion the cause of "Medicare For All."

RESOLUTION ADOPTED JUNE 2019