RESOLUTION 19-XX

OF THE CITY OF Longmont

The City Council’s vision for Longmont is:

**In 20 years, Longmont will be the world’s greatest village, where children are most fortunate to be born and raised, where people will have access to food and shelter, and where everyone has the opportunity to thrive and feel that they belong.**

Realizing this vision will be largely dependent on the degree to which every Longmont resident has access to affordable, high quality, health care. It is our experience that the pain and expense of limited or no access for so many of our residents is felt at the local level, while creating options for them can only be created by state and/or federal levels of government. Accordingly, the Longmont City Council approves the following resolution.

**Resolution on affordable, high quality, health care for all Longmont residents**

**Whereas**, the high cost and complexity of the many programs currently funding health care in America are failing to meet the needs of too many individuals, families and businesses in Longmont and the nation as a whole.

**Whereas**, a large segment of Longmont's population is housing-burdened, so that one unanticipated adverse health event can cause a family to lose its home and fall into reliance on city services.

**Whereas**, limited access to effective mental health resources contributes significantly to homeless in Longmont.

**Whereas**, an ultimate solution to the problem will be at the national level, the current pain inflicted by our dysfunctional health care system is very local and directly impacting Longmont residents.

**Whereas**, many small businesses in Longmont struggle to attract and retain employees because employees are often looking for jobs with health care benefits.

**Whereas**, America’s current health care system robs many individuals and families in Longmont of the freedom to live the lives they want to live.

**Whereas**, Longmont residents should not have their access to affordable health care dictated by their employment status.

**Whereas**, Longmont residents should not have to worry about loss of affordable health care when making decisions regarding marriage and divorce.

**Whereas**, Longmont family members should have the freedom to change their employment status in order to care for elderly, sick or young family members without concern about losing access to affordable health care.

**Whereas**, the high cost of healthcare is a significant factor in the inability of Longmont residents to find affordable housing.

**Whereas**, the Longmont economy would benefit when entrepreneurs have the freedom to pursue their vision without being constrained by the potential loss of health care for themselves and their family if they leave existing employment.

**Whereas**, the cost and complexity of providing health care is a significant issue each year for the City of Longmont, limiting our ability to provide other necessary services to residents.

**Whereas**, the current dysfunctional health care financing system and its impact on Longmont residents will inhibit the City from achieving the following City Council goals

* incentivize and provide housing and support services that end the risk of homelessness in our community, and
* focus on making sure that our most vulnerable residents have the resources and opportunity to thrive.

 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LONGMONT:**

1. The Longmont City Council strongly encourages the Governor of Colorado, our state legislative representatives and our congressional representatives to actively support the creation of an independently generated model (or models) for funding affordable, high quality health care such that the public may compare it to the current mix of health care financing programs.
2. The Mayor should forward this resolution to our state and federal elected representatives conveying the City Council’s interest in having a thorough and independent model for financing high quality, affordable, accessible health care for all Americans presented for public review.