06-2456

RESOLUTION

-DIRECTING THE CITY OF RACINE
CLERK TO PLACE THE REFERENDUM QUESTION CONTAINED IN THIS
RESOLUTION REQUESTING STATE LEGISLATIVE ACTION ON HEALTH CARE
ON THE NOVEMBER BALLOT-

WHEREAS, escalating health insurance costs are a major hardship for racine city residents
, businesses, and local units of government, and

WHEREAS, such high costs discourage business expansion and job creation in racine city of racine and burden individual citizens with high costs and the fear of losing health insurance coverage, and

WHEREAS, according to a recent study, Wisconsin health insurance costs are almost 1/3 higher than the rapidly rising national average, and

WHEREAS, by some measures the racine area has among the highest health care costs in the nation, including the eighth highest physician costs in the United States according to a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report last year, and

WHEREAS, the GAO study demonstrates that these skyrocketing health care costs in are a result of changes in the health insurance market which are beyond the control of local government, and

WHEREAS, despite the steep escalation in health insurance costs the State Legislature, which does has the power to remedy this situation, has failed to seriously consider comprehensive health care reform, and

WHEREAS, the following advisory referendum question is an effective way to determine whether the citizens believe that the next session of the State Legislature should take action:

> *"Should the Wisconsin Legislature establish a plan that will reduce health care costs by at least 15%, and guarantee access to universal, affordable health care coverage for all Wisconsin residents and families by 2008?"*

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the racine city council hereby directs the racine city clerk to place the question set forth above on the November ballot as an advisory referendum question.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the area legislators, Governor Jim Doyle and the league of Wisconsin Municipalities