WHEREAS, a National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health study found that teachers were dying of breast cancer at a higher rate than women in most other occupations in the ‘80s; and

WHEREAS, the American Federation of Teachers held educational programs on breast cancer for its members as part of a breast cancer awareness project; and

WHEREAS, despite the AFT program’s success in reducing breast cancer deaths among teachers, many members still are not diagnosed until their breast cancer has reached an advanced stage; and

WHEREAS, research has shown that breast density is common, affecting approximately 40 percent of women over the age of 40 and that mammograms miss 50 percent or more of cancers in women with dense breasts; and

WHEREAS, many women are unaware that they have dense breasts and could benefit from other screening tests such as ultrasound; and

WHEREAS, Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D.-Conn.) has introduced the Breast Density and Mammography Reporting Act of 2017, H.R. 4122, and Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D.-Calif.) has introduced the corresponding bill, S. 2006, into the 115th Congress requiring that women receive this important information:

RESOLVED, that the American Federation of Teachers will support these bills, which mandate that women be informed by mammography providers if they have dense breast tissue and be provided with information on the risks associated with this so they can consult with their doctors about ultrasound and other testing options, which may help to find breast cancer at earlier stages; and

RESOLVED, that the AFT will notify its members of this resolution and encourage them to lobby for federal legislation and to contact their state legislative directors to determine whether such protection exists in their states, and to lobby for such legislation if it is lacking; and
RESOLVED, that the AFT will urge locals to inform their members and encourage them to ask their medical providers if they have dense breasts when they get their mammograms if they are not currently given this information.

Submitted by: Chicago Teachers Union, Local 1

☐ Adopted  ☐ Adopted as Amended  ☐ Defeated  ☐ Tabled
☐ Precluded by___________________________  ☐ Referred to_________________________

9. PROTECT STAFF AND STUDENTS FROM THE HEALTH RISKS OF AGRICULTURAL PESTICIDES

WHEREAS, American Federation of Teachers members and the students and families we serve deserve healthy living and working environments that are free of chemicals of public health concern; and

WHEREAS, our communities who work and live near conventional agriculture are disproportionately affected by pesticide drift, which contaminates our water, soil, air, food and bodies; and

WHEREAS, those impacted by pesticide drift are disproportionately Hispanic/Latino and are already subject to social, economic and political discrimination; and

WHEREAS, children are the most vulnerable to the health harms of pesticide exposure because they eat, drink and breathe more per unit of body weight and are in a period of development when they are least able to detoxify contaminants; and

WHEREAS, in the 15 California counties assessed by the 2014 California Department of Public Health report titled Agricultural Pesticide Use Near Public Schools in California, 226 schools attended by more than 118,000 students were within the top 25 percent of schools with pesticide use nearby;¹ and

WHEREAS, the above report found that an estimated 538,912 pounds of pesticides of public health concern were applied within a quarter-mile of public schools in the 15 counties studied in 2010; and

WHEREAS, the above report also found that out of the top 10 pesticides applied within a quarter-mile of those schools, six were toxic air contaminants, four were carcinogens, three were reproductive/developmental toxins and two were cholinesterase inhibitors; and

WHEREAS, air monitors near schools throughout the state have measured fumigant pesticides such as Telone (1,3-dichloropropene) at levels above the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard

Assessment’s recommended regulatory target for cancer risk, and air monitoring for the neurodevelopmental toxicant chlorpyrifos has resulted in risk estimates of concern for children; and

WHEREAS, agricultural chemicals that negatively impact health, learning and behavior contribute to increased costs for underfunded and understaffed schools, particularly special education programs; and

WHEREAS, consumers are also affected by pesticide residues on fruits and vegetables, and by the environmental degradation and climate change to which conventional agriculture contributes:

RESOLVED, that the American Federation of Teachers supports regulatory and legislative actions to reduce exposures to hazardous agricultural chemicals, with particular emphasis on children, women of childbearing age and agricultural workers; and

RESOLVED, that the AFT contends that site-specific pesticide application information should be made available to the general public, thus removing perceptions of liabilities for school staff; and

RESOLVED, that the AFT will facilitate the provision of resources to members in affected communities on risks and harms of pesticide exposure and how and why to report possible pesticide drift incidents; and

RESOLVED, that the AFT supports legislation to create “zones of innovation” around schools in order to explore sustainable alternatives to chemical agriculture, with funding coming from a tax on hazardous agricultural chemicals similar to that levied on tobacco products; and

RESOLVED, that the AFT supports a phase-out of fumigant pesticides and all pesticides in the organophosphate family, including a total ban on the neurodevelopmental toxin chlorpyrifos and a renewed ban on atrazine; and

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RESOLVED, that the AFT believes the re-envisioning of food production to reduce chemical inputs and improve soil health aligns with the long-term goal of improved soil, air and water quality; decreased pesticide residues on foods; and decreased global climate change—with resulting reduction in costs for healthcare and education, and improved health and learning for our children and for future generations.

Submitted by: California Federation of Teachers

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10. OPIOIDS: A GLOBAL EPIDEMIC

WHEREAS, drug overdose deaths have reached record highs, fueled in large part by the abuse of narcotic painkillers and heroin. The United States has fewer than 5 percent of the world's population, yet consumes 80 percent of the global opioid supply; healthcare providers last year wrote more than 300 million painkiller prescriptions, enough to give every adult in the United States his or her own bottle of pills; and

WHEREAS, the opioid epidemic has touched nearly every American, but the United States is not alone in suffering from this calamity. Thanks to a combination of ruthless marketing by the pharmaceutical industry and easy access to prescribing doctors, many people in the developed world are now witness to the devastation that befalls friends, family members and communities as a result of opioid abuse. Consider:

- Europe: According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the highest levels of prescription opioid abuse in Europe have been reported from Northern Ireland, Denmark, Estonia, Finland and Germany also have substantial proportions of addicts. In terms of mortality rates, Ukraine, Iceland, Ireland and Luxembourg experience the highest levels in Europe, with more than 100 drug-related deaths per 1 million adults;

- Canada: Amid a growing opioid crisis of its own, Canada has authorized the opening of supervised consumption sites and partnered with China to curb fentanyl flows into the country, but the health ministry says “huge gaps” remain in the government’s ability to track and respond to the problem. British Columbia and Alberta, two of Canada’s most populous provinces, have declared a public health emergency, increasing funding for addiction treatment and access to naloxone; and

- Australia: The country has seen a sharp increase in the use of prescription opioids, which are now the cause of more than two-thirds of drug deaths. As part of its “very broad-brush approach,”
the health ministry expects to launch a nationwide electronic
system to monitor opioid prescriptions; and

WHEREAS, opioid addiction, worldwide, tears at the core of our
communities—draining our healthcare resources, affecting our
schools and workplaces, and targeting our vulnerable youth; and
WHEREAS, the opioid crisis has spread so broadly and penetrated
so deeply that it demands international solutions with contributions
from all levels of government, along with law enforcement, educators,
healthcare providers, social services, pharmaceutical companies and
community partners:

RESOLVED, that the American Federation of Teachers will
urge Public Services International’s Health and Social Services
Task Force to be a forceful advocate at the International Labor
Organization and the World Health Organization for drawing
from best practices worldwide to create guidelines—widely
publicized and distributed—for integrating innovative solutions
to this alarming and growing public health crisis, including
defining standards for treatment, eliminating barriers to care and
holding the pharmaceutical industry accountable; and

RESOLVED, that the AFT will work with PSI in its “People
over Profit” campaign to expose the profit margins that
multinational pharmaceutical companies derive as a result of the
opioid epidemic.

Submitted by: Wisconsin Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals,
Local 5000

☐ Adopted ☐ Adopted as Amended ☐ Defeated ☐ Tabled
☐ Precluded by_________________________ ☐ Referred to____________

11. IN SUPPORT OF EXPANDING HEALTHCARE FOR
ALL

WHEREAS, in a functioning, prosperous and humane society,
every individual should have needed healthcare; and
WHEREAS, although the current federal healthcare framework of
the Affordable Care Act, combined with Medicare and Medicaid, has
provided millions of people with access to healthcare and the ability to
get their most basic health needs met, the federal law was never
expected to cover all who are uninsured, and many of the millions
who were uninsured prior to the Affordable Care Act still lack any
health coverage; and
WHEREAS, the health insurance system in our country remains
highly fragmented, which itself adds to health costs through the cost
of administration and paperwork; and
WHEREAS, instead of addressing these problems in any serious
way, President Donald Trump's administration has worked to
sabotage the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, and the
Republican congressional majorities have made repeated efforts to
repeal the Affordable Care Act and slash Medicaid, and the
Congressional Budget Office estimates the tax reform law they
passed in December 2017 will result in 13 million fewer persons with
health insurance by 2025; and

WHEREAS, in strong contrast, 16 Democrats in the U.S. Senate
support Senate Bill 1804, to extend Medicare to everyone in the
United States:

RESOLVED, that the American Federation of Teachers
condemns the tax reform law’s detrimental impact on healthcare
access; and

RESOLVED, that the AFT, working with the National
Education Association, opposes all attempts to reduce the
healthcare access provided by Medicare, Medicaid and the
Affordable Care Act; and

RESOLVED, that the AFT, working with the National
Education Association, calls for improving the healthcare safety
net, including protecting and improving Medicare, Medicaid and
the Affordable Care Act; and

RESOLVED, that the AFT reaffirms the most sensible and
cost-effective solution for health coverage is a single-payer
system modeled after the federal Medicare system such as that
proposed by S.B. 1804; and

RESOLVED, that the AFT will educate and mobilize its
members and our broader community to support universal
healthcare coverage.

Submitted by: United Federation of Teachers, Local 2

☐ Adopted ☐ Adopted as Amended ☐ Defeated ☐ Tabled
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12. BARGAINING FOR TRANS HEALTHCARE

WHEREAS, transgender individuals face expensive medical care,
medical expenses and medical needs; and

WHEREAS, transgender individuals’ medical expenses are
medically necessary and not elective; and

WHEREAS, medically necessary surgeries, prescriptions and
healthcare coverage are human rights:

RESOLVED, that the American Federation of Teachers will
work toward expanding trans-related healthcare compliant with
World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) standards of care; and
RESOLVED, that the AFT will share information about trans-inclusive healthcare with locals; and
RESOLVED, that the AFT will work toward bargaining for inexpensive and affordable trans healthcare; and
RESOLVED, that the AFT will work in coalition with trans-rights groups (including, but not limited to, the Human Rights Campaign and WPATH) to advocate for trans-inclusive healthcare services that do not question or marginalize trans patients during healthcare; and
RESOLVED, that the AFT will include trans healthcare for all its employees and advocate for trans healthcare for other workers across the country.

Submitted by: AFT-Oregon

☐ Adopted  ☐ Adopted as Amended  ☐ Defeated  ☐ Tabled
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13. PROMOTING SUPPORT OF THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT AND MEDICAID EXPANSION

WHEREAS, more than 20 million Americans gained health insurance coverage due to the Affordable Care Act; and
WHEREAS, the Affordable Care Act has increased access to care, has reduced medical debt, and has ensured that insurance companies cannot institute yearly or lifetime caps nor limit or deny coverage due to pre-existing conditions; and
WHEREAS, young adults are allowed to stay on their parents’ health coverage until age 26, ensuring that this demographic does not go without coverage due to affordability; and
WHEREAS, access to care has increased due to the Affordable Care Act’s requirement that health plans cover preventive care and other services such as cancer screenings maternity care, contraception, substance abuse treatment, and mental health counseling; and
WHEREAS, studies have found that health-related medical debt and medical bills in collections have declined and that low-income Americans are less likely to avoid seeking medical care due to cost since implementation of the Affordable Care Act; and
WHEREAS, 33 states and the District of Columbia have expanded their Medicaid programs, providing insurance to millions of low-income adults; and
WHEREAS, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation, research demonstrates that Medicaid expansion has positively affected access
to care, utilization of services, the affordability of care, financial
stability, self-reported health, and certain measures of health
outcomes among the low-income population; and
WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion has significantly improved credit
scores for many Americans and has reduced the probability of a new
bankruptcy filing, among other improvements in measures of financial
security; and
WHEREAS, new federal proposals allow states to implement
policies never approved before, including conditioning Medicaid
eligibility on work or community engagement; and
WHEREAS, federal efforts to dismantle the Affordable Care Act
and strip health coverage from millions of Americans have narrowly
avoided passage:

RESOLVED, that the American Federation of Teachers and its
affiliates will oppose federal efforts to repeal the Affordable Care
Act; and
RESOLVED, that the AFT and its affiliates will oppose efforts
to reinstate coverage limitations such as lifetime caps and those
based on pre-existing conditions; and
RESOLVED, that the AFT will support open enrollment efforts
to ensure all Americans have access and opportunity to enroll in
insurance markets and subsidies opened through the Affordable
Care Act; and
RESOLVED, that the AFT and its affiliates will support
strategies at the federal level to stabilize individual insurance
markets created through the Affordable Care Act and maintain
the individual mandate; and
RESOLVED, that the AFT and its affiliates will support state-
level strategies to protect essential health benefits and stabilize
individual insurance markets created through the Affordable
Care Act; and
RESOLVED, that the AFT and its affiliates will advocate for
continuity of the Medicaid expansion at the federal level, and
support state efforts to enact expanded Medicaid programs and
oppose Medicaid waivers that impose restrictions on access.

Submitted by: Washington State Nurses Association, Local 5901
□ Adopted □ Adopted as Amended □ Defeated □ Tabled
□ Precluded by__________________________ □ Referred to_____________