



3/13/91: Approved by the Board of Directors

Position on Access to Health Care

The obstacles of high cost and restricted access have virtually closed off a significant and growing percentage of Americans from receiving health care. The serious problems afflicting the American health care system cannot be resolved within the current framework of health care organization and financing. The compelling needs of so many citizens who cannot and do not receive adequate health care demand new strategies for service provision.

The Milwaukee Jewish Council supports those efforts which move our city, state and country toward universal access to health care without regard to economic, social or legal status. Health care is not a luxury, but rather a basic human right and need.

Jewish tradition includes a deep commitment to health care. In the Oral Tradition of the Mishnah it is stated that "Whoever saves one life, it is as if he had saved the whole human race". With this as a tenet, the Council urges Federal, State and local governments, to develop cost-effective initiatives to provide adequate health care to individuals and families who are uninsured or underinsured, cannot afford such care from their own resources, and do not qualify for publicly supported health programs.

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