



**03 – 9 HC 6**

**SMALL BUSINESS HEALTH CARE OPPORTUNITIES**

**WHEREAS** CLUB 20 recognizes the importance of small business to the state and Western Slope economies; and

**WHEREAS** small business health insurance costs have skyrocketed in recent years causing reduced profitability and/or elimination of employer-sponsored health care coverage; and

**WHEREAS** it is difficult for rural communities to maintain a diverse array of competitive health insurance products due to large geographic areas and small populations; and

**WHEREAS** mandated employer-provided health care benefits (which are not even a practical option for some businesses) place a tremendous financial burden on the business community and thereby threaten the viability of small businesses;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that CLUB 20 believes that allowing businesses or trade associations to pool health care costs should be fully evaluated to determine if that would increase economies of scale and bargaining power of these organizations, thus resulting in more available, higher quality, and lower cost health plans for workers while ensuring solvency of the pool; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that CLUB 20 believes that government taxing policies regarding health care insurance and costs should be applied equitably to all taxpayers and between different types of businesses; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that CLUB 20 believes that the business community must be proactive with government in developing structure and financing options, including appropriate incentives, to improve access to care for working individuals and their families without mandating health insurance for businesses.

*Adopted September 5, 2003*

*Amended 9/5/08*