

SOMERSET COUNTY BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, New Jersey is known as the “Medicine Chest of the World” and is responsible for creating many of the world’s life-saving medicines and devices; and,

WHEREAS, biopharmaceutical and medical technology industry is, and will continue to be, an important sector of New Jersey’s economy employing over 60,000 men and women in an economic impact of \$31 Billion to the State of New Jersey; and,

WHEREAS, Somerset County is the proud home to sanofi-aventis, Pfizer, and Johnson & Johnson, and hundreds of other biopharmaceutical and medical technology companies; and,

WHEREAS, the biopharmaceutical and medical technology, local chambers of commerce, labor unions, businesses, patient advocacy organizations and life science employees have launched an awareness campaign to promote innovation and a healthy New Jersey economy and citizenry; and,

WHEREAS, skyrocketing health care costs are stifling the economic recovery and are financially devastating hardworking American families, and,

WHEREAS, without solutions to the problem of rising health care costs more companies and families will be forced to drop coverage, adding to the millions of Americans without health insurance.

WHEREAS, rising health care costs are one of the top cost pressures for businesses of all sizes, and,

WHEREAS, according to the United States Census Bureau more than 170 million Americans receive health insurance through employer-sponsored plans, and,

WHEREAS, the citizens of Somerset County understand that in order for New Jersey to maintain its standing as the leader in the life sciences, lawmakers in Washington DC and Trenton must pursue smart policy choices that allow innovate companies to continue to do research and develop new cures;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Somerset County Business Partnership Inc. believes that significant steps can be taken to improve health care quality, coverage, and affordability—without risking a government takeover or imposing crushing new mandates on business. A government-run or single-payer health care system with government mandates is the wrong answer. Creating a new public health plan would lead our system in the wrong direction.

Be It Further Resolved that the Somerset County Business Partnership Inc. believes that employers drive innovation in health benefits and that market-driven health reforms are the best approach to reducing costs while promoting efficiency, wellness, and quality of care, and,

Be It Further Resolved that the Somerset County Business Partnership Inc. supports leveling the playing field for individual consumers, families, and small businesses to purchase coverage while protecting the benefits of a uniform federal regulatory system (ERISA), and,

Be It Further Resolved that the Somerset County Business Partnership Inc. supports strengthening employer-sponsored health insurance and making it more available and affordable to every worker, and,

Be It Further Resolved that the Somerset County Business Partnership Inc. supports expanded access to affordable health care coverage,

Be It Further Resolved that the Somerset County Business Partnership Inc. supports improving the transparency of health care cost and quality data so that Americans can shop smart for the best care, and,

Be It Further Resolved that the Somerset County Business Partnership Inc. supports interoperable health IT including the use of electronic prescriptions and medical records that will improve quality, lower costs, reduce medical errors, and help patients and doctors make better medical decisions, and,

Be It Further Resolved that the Somerset County Business Partnership Inc. supports the use of tax credits to reduce health care costs by encouraging healthier lifestyles, and,

Be It Further Resolved that the Somerset County Business Partnership Inc. supports the work of our pharmaceutical industry and resolves to create greater awareness amongst the business community of the County of Somerset, State of New Jersey and commends the industry on their efforts to strengthen this vital economic engine.



Donna LoStocco
Chairperson of the Board of Directors



Michael V. Kerwin
President & CEO