WHEREAS, The healthcare system in the United States is fundamentally the most advanced in the world, and

WHEREAS, The cost of healthcare in the U.S. is rising due to many factors including but not limited to an increasingly aging population which is a direct sign of better care and outcomes by physicians and nurses, more readily available laboratory and imaging testing, newer pharmacological therapies for acute, chronic and malignant diseases, an out of control expensive defensive malpractice system which does not serve the patient’s best interests, rising physician educational and practice expenses, increasingly costly to comply with governmental regulations, unfunded procedure mandates and the shifting of costs for reporting, claim-filing and non-reimbursable services that physicians are required to provide, and

WHEREAS, approximately 47 million U.S. citizens are uninsured, some by choice and some for financial reasons both of which unfairly increase the cost of care to those who choose to buy insurance or to employers who attempt to provide it, and

WHEREAS, current governmental healthcare programs (Medicare, Medicaid, and Military) all fail to adequately reimburse providers for their services, which leads to loss of access to medical care and severe and unreasonable cost-shifting to those patients with private insurance and skyrocketing premiums, and

WHEREAS, governmental regulation serves only to ultimately decrease timely and quality access to medical care, and

WHEREAS, current healthcare policies and reimbursements do not incentivize the promotion of prevention by the physician OR encourage healthy life-styles by the patient, and

WHEREAS, physicians receive less than 16% of the total expenditures for healthcare in the U.S., despite shouldering the medical and legal responsibility for the vast majority of patients; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Oklahoma State Medical Association supports the development and implementation of comprehensive health system reform that provides for universally available and affordable health insurance policy choices to our citizens, encouraging a healthier nation through the application of preventive medicine practices, access by patients to care, by reimbursing physicians appropriately for their services, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Oklahoma State Medical Association supports our fellow colleague and U.S. Senator, Dr. Tom Coburn, M.D., from Muskogee, Oklahoma in his legislative efforts to reform the US healthcare system.