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WHEREAS, the 2020 platform of the Democratic National Committee states that “We will not rest until every American can access quality health care and affordable prescription drugs,” that “We will tackle entrenched racial disparities in health care, reduce prescription drug prices by standing up to big pharmaceutical companies,” and more particularly that “Democrats will take aggressive action to ensure that Americans do not pay more for prescription drugs than people in other advanced economies, and ensure that all necessary medication are covered. We will empower Medicare to at last be able to negotiate prescription drug prices for all public and private purchases – for families and businesses, as well as older Americans—no matter where they get their coverage”; and

WHEREAS, the platform of the Democratic Party of Oregon and the platform of the Democratic Party of Benton County Oregon both “support authorizing state and federal governments to negotiate drug prices with transparency”; and

WHEREAS, in House Energy and Commerce committee proceedings, Rep. Kurt Schrader voted against keeping a provision in HB 5376 the “Build Back Better Act” which would have allowed Medicare to negotiate prescription drug prices, voting with every single Republican on the committee and against the wishes of 29 of the 32 Democrats on the committee; and

WHEREAS, [polling finds that nearly all Americans support Medicare negotiating prescription drug prices](#) (86%). Support is even higher in Rep. Kurt Schrader’s district – at 91%.

WHEREAS, Rep. Kurt Schrader was elected with votes from Benton County, Oregon.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF BENTON COUNTY OREGON RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1: We urge Rep. Kurt Schrader to act upon wishes of an overwhelming majority of his constituents and with the values of the Democratic Party and support empowering Medicare to negotiate prescription drug prices for all public and private purchasers.

Section 2: We call upon Rep. Kurt Schrader, and all the Oregon Congressional Delegation, to support the reconciliation bill HB 5376 the “Build Back Better Act” with a yes vote, and

Section 3 We call upon Rep. Kurt Schrader, and all the Oregon Congressional Delegation, to reject amendments which would weaken HB 5376 the “Build Back Better Act” programs and funding, and

Section 4. We caution Rep. Kurt Schrader that a failure to support the principles of the Democratic Party of Oregon, the principles of the Democratic Party of Benton County, Oregon, and the overwhelming will of the voters, will result in our withdrawal of support.

Section 5. We will communicate this resolution, in writing, to the offices of Oregon’s Congressional Delegation, Oregon members of the Democratic National Committee, and via a press release to the Oregon media.

ADOPTED by the Benton County Democratic Central Committee on October, 29th, 2021.