RESOLUTION

WHEREAS,
   One of the primary objects of the Union League Club of Chicago is to secure honesty and efficiency in the administration of national, state, and municipal affairs, and;

WHEREAS,
   The Club's Public Affairs Committee has concluded that one of the causes of recidivism among mentally ill persons who are incarcerated in Illinois penal institutions is that they become mentally unstable after release, because their Medicaid benefits, which provide medications to treat their mental illnesses, are terminated while they are incarcerated and they face administrative obstacles and time delays in obtaining reinstatement of their benefits after being released, and;

WHEREAS,
   Medicaid benefits for mentally ill incarcerated persons could be more quickly resumed after release if benefits were suspended rather than terminated, and;

WHEREAS,
   The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services of the United States Department of Health and Human Services has encouraged State Medicaid Directors to suspend rather than terminate benefits for mentally ill persons who are incarcerated;

THEREFORE,
   The Board of Directors of the Union League Club of Chicago:

1. Urges the State of Illinois to adopt a policy of suspending rather than terminating Medicaid benefits for mentally ill persons who are incarcerated in Illinois penal institutions, and;

2. Authorizes the Public Affairs Committee to advocate this position generally, and to communicate this position specifically to the Director of the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services, the Secretary of the Illinois Department of Human Services, the Illinois General Assembly, and/or the Governor of Illinois, as necessary and appropriate to achieve the desired action.

Adopted March 28, 2006 by the Board of Directors.

Richard E. Moore
President

Sandra L. Williams
Secretary