



RESOLUTION 21-162

Resolution in Support of the Medicare for All Act of 2019 and, Specific to the Pandemic, The Healthcare Emergency Guarantee Act of 2020

WHEREAS, every person in Princeton, Mercer County, deserves high quality health care and everyone's health is at risk when our neighbors cannot receive care; and

WHEREAS, *before the Covid-19 pandemic*, the number of Americans without health insurance was nearly 30 million with about 50 million Americans underinsured, the pandemic has greatly increased these numbers as millions of people continue to lose job-related health insurance, with the impacts most severe on our Black and Brown neighbors; and

WHEREAS, without new strategies, the never-ending rising costs of health care further challenge our already strapped municipal budget and our small businesses that keep our communities thriving; and

WHEREAS, recent polls show that a growing majority of Americans support Medicare-for-All; cities/town approving Medicare for All Resolutions include: Los Angeles (CA), South Bend (IN), Ann Arbor (MI), Knoxville (TN), New Orleans (LA), Putnam (CT), Hanover (NH); Red Bank (NJ) and

WHEREAS the Medicare for All Act of 2019 would provide national health insurance for every person in the United States for all necessary medical care including diagnostic (e.g., virus) testing; prescription drugs; hospital, surgical and outpatient services; primary and preventive care; emergency services; women's reproductive care; dental and vision care; and long-term care; and

WHEREAS the Medicare for All Act of 2019 would provide coverage without copays, deductibles or other out-of-pocket costs, and would slash bureaucracy, protect the doctor-patient relationship and assure patients a free choice of doctors; and

WHEREAS, the Medicare for All Act of 2019 would save millions in taxpayer dollars now spent on premiums that provide often inadequate health insurance coverage for government employees; and

WHEREAS, the Healthcare Emergency Guarantee Act of 2020 will cover, through Medicare, the costs of Covid-19 related treatment for uninsured Americans as well as all out-of-pocket costs for those with private or public insurance throughout the duration of the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the quality of life for the residents of Princeton, Mercer County, will vastly improve because everyone would be able to get preventative and ongoing care when they need it to keep themselves and their neighbors healthy and avoid further burdening local resources;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Princeton Council enthusiastically supports the (Improved) Medicare for All Act(s) of 2019 (H.R.1384 and S.1129) and the Healthcare Emergency Guarantee Act(s) of 2020 (H.R. 6906 and S.3790) and calls on our federal legislators to work toward their immediate enactment, assuring appropriate and efficient health care for all residents of the United States.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Princeton Council expresses its enthusiastic support for the New Jersey Assembly Bill #2269 and Senate Bill #2598 and calls upon our state legislators to work toward its immediate enactment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we, the Princeton Council, acknowledge the following:

- the *Covid-19 pandemic* has shown the importance of making high-quality healthcare available to everyone; our existing system leaves out too many people of color and those with limited resources; and
- millions who have no insurance, or insurance with high out-of-pocket costs, face the possibility that a major illness would lead to financial ruin; medical illness and bills contribute to two-thirds of all bankruptcies; and
- managed care and other market-based reforms have failed to contain health care costs, which threaten the international competitiveness of U.S. businesses; and
- the existence of thousands of public and private insurance providers and regulators has resulted in extraordinarily complex (and unsustainable) health care business procedures that consume almost one-third of our nation's expenditures for health care; and

- administrative waste stemming from our reliance on private insurers consumes one-third of private health spending while the single-payer Medicare system has administration costs of less than 5 percent; and
- rationing health care according to ability to pay has diminished the overall health of our citizens to the point that the United States ranks last among industrialized nations in health outcomes and as many as 30,000 people in the United States die each year due to inadequate health care; and
- numerous academic studies have concluded that the administrative savings under a single-payer, (Improved) Medicare for All system would be enough to cover the currently uninsured and improve coverage for all those who now have only partial coverage; and
- entrusting care to profit-oriented firms diverts billions of dollars to very high incomes for CEOs and to shareholder profits that threaten the quality of care; and
- the failure to provide affordable and appropriate preventative health care services places unnecessary and more costly demands upon Princeton’s human, health and emergency services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Municipal Clerk is hereby directed to forward a certified copy of this resolution to New Jersey’s United States Senators and Representatives, as well as Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman, representative of New Jersey’s 12th Congressional District; the Governor; the New Jersey Senate and the New Jersey Assembly, including Princeton’s local representatives of those bodies.

Councilperson	Absent	Present	1 st	2 nd	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Disqualified
Mr. Cohen								
Ms. Fraga								
Ms. Niedergang								
Ms. Pirone Lambros								
Ms. Sacks								
Mr. Williamson								
Mayor Freda								

I, Delores A. Williams, Municipal Clerk of Princeton, do hereby certify that the above is a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Mayor and Council of Princeton at a meeting held May 10, 2021.

Delores A. Williams, Municipal Clerk