

RESOLUTION NO. NS-29

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CALCARE (AB 1400) AND MEDICARE FOR ALL (H.R. 1976)

WHEREAS, every person in the City of Santa Cruz deserves high quality health care; and

WHEREAS, the number of Americans without health insurance before the Covid-19 pandemic was still nearly 30 million, with more than 40 million Americans underinsured, and the number of Californians without health insurance was 2.7 million, with 12 million Californians underinsured, despite important gains made since the implementation of the Affordable Care Act; and

WHEREAS, communities of color are disproportionately represented among the uninsured, underinsured, and subjected to medical debt, medical bankruptcies, and homelessness due to medical bills, which has an adverse impact on those families and the entire community; and

WHEREAS, the current Covid-19 pandemic has led to record levels of unemployment, loss of employer-sponsored health insurance, a severely strained health care system, widespread illness, and has taken a profound toll on our community's mental health, all of which is placing significant demands on our health care system, and

WHEREAS, the Covid-19 pandemic further exposed the dangers of our fragmented, profit-driven health care system, which leads many Californians to delay seeking needed health care due to an inability to pay, leading to a sicker and poorer population in the long run; and

WHEREAS, such a population is significantly more likely to develop serious illness if exposed to diseases like Covid-19 and will subsequently face higher mortality rates; and

WHEREAS, the ever-increasing costs of health care, which are further elevated due to the pandemic, may challenge our already strapped state and municipal budgets; and

WHEREAS, the Medicare for All Act of 2021 (H.R. 1976) and the California Guaranteed Health Care for All Act (AB 1400) would guarantee health care free at the point of service for every person in the United States and California, respectively, for all necessary medical care including prescription drugs; hospital, surgical, and outpatient services; primary and preventive care; emergency services; reproductive care; dental and vision care; and long-term care; and

WHEREAS, the Medicare for All Act of 2021 and the California Guaranteed Health Care for All Act 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

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WHEREAS, the California Guaranteed Health Care for All Act would establish state-wide comprehensive universal single-payer health care and a health care cost control system for the benefit of all residents of the state; and

WHEREAS, the Medicare for All Act of 2021 and the California Guaranteed Health Care Act would save millions in taxpayer dollars now spent on premiums that provide often inadequate health insurance coverage for government employees; and

WHEREAS, the quality of life for the residents of the City of Santa Cruz would vastly improve because they would be able to get the ongoing care they need, instead of waiting until they have a medical emergency that could upend their lives as well as further burden local resources; and

WHEREAS, recent polls show that a majority of Americans and Californians support Medicare for All; and

WHEREAS, the present presidential administration has the policy to empower states, as laboratories of democracy, to use Affordable Care Act innovation waivers to develop locally tailored approaches to health coverage, including by removing barriers to states that seek to experiment with statewide universal health care approaches; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Cruz City Council enthusiastically supports the Medicare for All Act of 2021 (H.R. 1976) and calls on our federal legislators to work toward its immediate enactment, assuring health care for all residents of the United States; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Santa Cruz City Council expresses its enthusiastic support for the California Guaranteed Health Care for All Act (AB 1400) and calls upon our state legislators to work toward its immediate enactment.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 27th day of April, 2021, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

DISQUALIFIED:

APPROVED: _____
Donna Meyers, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Bonnie Bush, City Clerk Administrator