HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
City of Long Beach
California

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt resolution in support of Medicare for All supporting legislation, policies and grants that will establish a national health insurance program to provide every resident of the United States with health insurance through an expanded Medicare program, inclusive of improved and comprehensive benefits (Citywide)

DISCUSSION:

Pursuant to your request on March 23, 2021, a resolution has been prepared and is submitted for your consideration.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Very truly yours,

CHARLES PARKIN, City Attorney

GARY J ANDERSON
Principal Deputy City Attorney
RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LONG BEACH IN SUPPORT OF MEDICARE FOR ALL SUPPORTING LEGISLATION, POLICIES AND GRANTS THAT WILL ESTABLISH A NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM TO PROVIDE EVERY RESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES WITH HEALTH INSURANCE THROUGH AN EXPANDED MEDICARE PROGRAM, INCLUSIVE OF IMPROVED AND COMPREHENSIVE BENEFITS.

WHEREAS, the United States spends nearly twice as much per capita on health care as all other comparable countries and yet ranks only 35th in the world by global health standards, including on such critical barometers as average life expectancy, infant mortality, maternal mortality, and death from preventable diseases; and

WHEREAS, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) enacted important improvements, primarily through the expansion of Medicaid in states that have agreed to do so, and limits on some insurance industry abuses, that reform left tens of millions with a continuing crisis in access, cost, and quality of care; and

WHEREAS, the uninsured rate for U.S. adults has risen for four straight years up to nearly 30 million, even after implementation of the ACA, with the greatest increase among women, young adults, and lower-income people; and

WHEREAS, tens of millions more who pay for insurance remain underinsured due to the still largely unregulated high cost of medical care that has led to one-third of all GoFundMe accounts being established to pay for exorbitant medical bills; and

WHEREAS, more than 40 percent of all U.S. adults under the age of 65...
forego needed medical care, 30 percent fail to fill a prescription or take less than the
recommended dose, and a third said they had to choose in the past year between paying
for food, heating, housing, or health care, according to a 2018 survey by the West Health
Institute and NORC at the University of Chicago; and

WHEREAS, the inability to pay medical bills continues to be a leading
cause of personal bankruptcy, and people who need medical care should never face
bankruptcy as a result of needing care; and

WHEREAS, the ever-rising cost of health care and its discriminatory
characteristics contribute to the growing national chasm in wealth inequality; and

WHEREAS, discrimination, based on race, ethnicity, national origin, gender,
sexual orientation, age, socioeconomic status, and where one lives is particularly
systematic to a profit-based health care system; and

WHEREAS, 55 percent of the uninsured are people of color; African
Americans suffer higher death rates than whites at an earlier age due to heart disease,
diabetes, cancer, HIV, and infant mortality; African-American women are three to four
times more likely than white women to die in childbirth; and African American and Latino
students are more likely to experience health risks due to exposure to toxins and air
pollution at school; and

WHEREAS, continued attacks on the ACA by the Trump administration and
GOP in Congress have given insurance companies a new pretext to demand double digit
premium increases, while the government's failure to maintain taxpayer subsidies to help
moderate-income families pay the high cost of insurance plans has exacerbated the crisis
experienced by millions of American families; and

WHEREAS, employer-provided health benefits are declining and
employees' costs are increasing through cost-shifting to workers, including increased cost
of premiums for workers covered by employer-paid insurance, which have risen by an
average of 65 percent, and deductibles have risen by an average of 212 percent over the
past decade; and
WHEREAS, many other countries around the world use taxes to pay for national universal health care, which leaves U.S. based companies that pay for employee health care at a competitive disadvantage.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Long Beach resolves as follows:

Section 1. The City Council of the City of Long Beach does hereby indicate its support for Medicare for All supporting legislation, policies and grants that will establish a national health insurance program to provide every resident of the United States with health insurance through an expanded Medicare program, inclusive of improved and comprehensive benefits.

Section 2. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption by the City Council, and the City Clerk shall certify the vote adopting this resolution.

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the City Council of the City of Long Beach at its meeting of ____________, 2021, by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers: ____________________________________________

Noes: Councilmembers: ____________________________________________

Absent: Councilmembers: ____________________________________________

Recusal(s): Councilmembers: ____________________________________________

City Clerk