

## **State College Medicare for All Resolution 1297**

**WHEREAS** every person in State College 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, despite important gains made since the implementation of the Affordable Care Act; and

**WHEREAS** 676,000 Pennsylvanians are uninsured, and most are low income; and

**WHEREAS** 5,980 Pennsylvanians in Centre County, and 1,819 individuals of the State College population, remain uninsured; 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 taken a profound toll on our community's mental health, all of which is placing significant demands on our health care system, and

**WHEREAS** many people 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 COVID-19 and will subsequently face higher mortality rates from the disease; and

**WHEREAS** the Borough of State College currently spends \$3.99 million of its annual budget for paying health care premiums and other healthcare expenses for municipal employees; 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**, COVID-19 related treatment could cost uninsured patients tens of thousands of dollars; and

**WHEREAS** in order to equitably and effectively address the health care burden of the COVID-19 crisis, we must urge the United States Congress to expand health insurance coverage to provide comprehensive coverage to every resident of the United States without any cost sharing.

**WHEREAS** the Medicare for All Act of 2021 would provide national health insurance for every person in the United States for all necessary medical care including prescription drugs; hospital, surgical and outpatient services; primary and preventive care; emergency services; comprehensive reproductive, maternity, and newborn care; mental health care; dental and vision care; and long-term care<sup>1</sup>; and

**WHEREAS** the Medicare for All Act of 2021 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** recent polls show that a majority of Americans support Medicare for All; and

**WHEREAS** the Medicare for All Act of 2021 will guarantee that all residents of State College will be fully covered for health care without copays, deductibles or other out-of-pocket costs, and 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 State College will 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;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the State College Borough Council urges Congress to enact emergency legislation to provide universal, comprehensive health coverage with zero cost-sharing for patients during this crisis and 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 appropriate and efficient health care for all residents of the United States.

**Sources:**

1. Section 201(House): <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/1976/text#toc-H750808950C3C4A13969230E646D3FC9E>

Section 201 (Senate) <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/1129/text#toc-id25c91cb96228483495ad9de0b47b79f8>

[https://socialsecurityworks.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Pennsylvania\\_AMA.pdf](https://socialsecurityworks.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Pennsylvania_AMA.pdf)

<https://www.cbpp.org/research/health/fact-sheet-who-are-the-remaining-uninsured#counties;Pennsylvania;42027>

[https://datausa.io/profile/geo/state-college-pa#health\\_coverage](https://datausa.io/profile/geo/state-college-pa#health_coverage)

<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=State%20College%20borough%20Health&tid=ACSSST5Y2019.S2701>

RESOLVED this 6th day of December 2021.

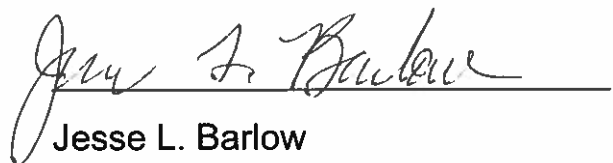
ATTEST:

BOROUGH OF STATE COLLEGE



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