

**SPONSORED BY:
SECONDED BY:**

**CITY OF HOBOKEN
RESOLUTION NO.:**

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE MEDICARE FOR ALL ACT OF
2021 (H.R. 1976)**

WHEREAS, every person in Hoboken deserves high quality health care and everyone's health is at risk when our neighbors cannot receive 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, 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 with the impacts most severe on the minority populations; 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, 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, 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; and,

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 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 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 growing majority of Americans support Medicare-for-All; and,

WHEREAS the Medicare for All Act of 2021 will guarantee that all residents of Hoboken 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 failure to provide affordable and appropriate preventative health care services places unnecessary and costlier demands upon Hoboken emergency health care services; and,

WHEREAS, the quality of life for the residents of Hoboken 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 Hoboken City Council hereby 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; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Hoboken acknowledges 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, 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 outrageous incomes for CEOs and threatens the quality of care; and
- the failure to provide affordable and appropriate preventative health care services places unnecessary and more costly demands upon Hoboken emergency health care services.

Meeting Date: December 1, 2021

APPROVED:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

✓ Vote Record - CC - Resolution						
			Yes/Aye	No/Nay	Abstain/Alternate	Absent
		Phil Cohen	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Mike DeFusco	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		James Doyle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted		Vanessa Falco	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Denied		Tiffanie Fisher	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Carried		Jennifer Giattino	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Emily Jabbour	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Michael Russo	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Ruben Ramos	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>