



# City of South Bend Common Council

441 County-City Building • 227 W. Jefferson Blvd  
South Bend, Indiana 46601

(574) 235-9321  
Fax (574) 235-9173  
TDD (574) 235-5567  
<http://www.southbendin.gov>

Tim Scott  
President

Karen L. White  
Vice-President

Sharon L. McBride  
Chairperson, Committee  
of the Whole

Tim Scott  
First District

Henry Davis, Jr.  
Second District

Sharon L. McBride  
Third District

Troy Warner  
Fourth District

Jake Teshka  
Fifth District

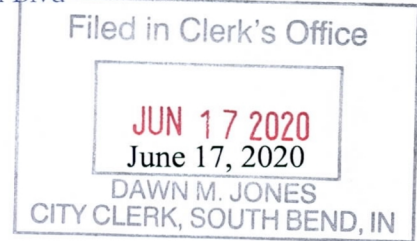
Sheila Niezgodski  
Sixth District

Karen L. White  
At Large

Rachel Tomas Morgan  
At Large

Lori K. Hamann  
At Large

South Bend Common Council  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor, County-City Building  
South Bend, IN 46601



**Re: A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY  
OF SOUTH BEND, INDIANA, ENDORSING AND URGING  
PASSAGE OF FEDERAL LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE  
UNIVERSAL, COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH COVERAGE WITH  
ZERO COST-SHARING DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND  
BEYOND**

Dear Council Members:

As you know, the entire country, including the State of Indiana, is suffering from the pandemic of the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19). This pandemic has caused unprecedented unemployment resulting in the loss of health insurance.

The Resolution endorses and urges passage of federal legislation such as the *Health Care Emergency Guarantee Act* (H.R. 6906) which guarantees all residents full coverage for medically necessary health care without copays, deductibles, or other out-of-pocket costs until an approved COVID-19 vaccine is widely available to the public.

This Resolution also endorses and urges passage of the *Medicare for All Act of 2019* (H.R. 1384) which would provide similarly expanded coverage, but would make that coverage available in perpetuity, so that everyone in our city and across the country has access to the health care they need so we never have to face a health care crisis like this one again.

I ask that this proposed Resolution be scheduled for consideration at the Council's June 22, 2020 meeting.

Thank you for your attention to this very important matter. I look forward to your support.



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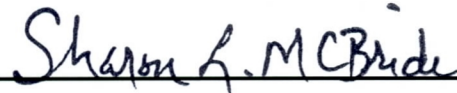
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<http://www.southbendin.gov>

Sincerely yours,



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Henry Davis, Jr. South Bend Common  
Council, Second District (Sponsor)



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Sharon L. McBride, South Bend Common  
Council, Third District (Co-Sponsor)



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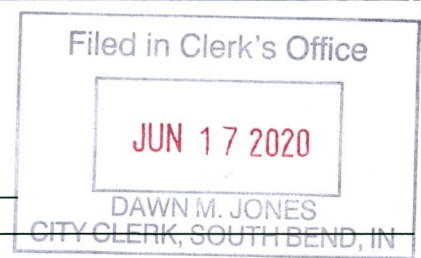
Sheila Niezgodski, South Bend Common  
Council, Sixth District (Co-Sponsor)



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Lori K. Hamann, South Bend Common  
Council, At Large (Co-Sponsor)





**A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOUTH BEND, INDIANA, ENDORSING AND URGING PASSAGE OF FEDERAL LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE UNIVERSAL, COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH COVERAGE WITH ZERO COST-SHARING DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND BEYOND**

**WHEREAS**, every person in the City of South Bend, the State of Indiana, and the United States deserves high quality health care; and

**WHEREAS**, the Medicaid program comprises a significant portion of the State budget, leaving it vulnerable to partisan budget debates and insufficient to meet the demands of the population under normal conditions, much less during a pandemic which results in massive layoffs and likely increases Medicaid applications; 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**, the COVID-19 pandemic has only increased the need to ensure individual access to preventative health care in order to protect the overall public health; and

**WHEREAS**, Indiana, like many other states, suffers from racial health disparities, demonstrated by both the maternal and neonatal mortality rates among black residents and the unequal distribution of morbidity and mortality during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, such a population is significantly more likely to develop serious illness if exposed to COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, medical bills are a leading cause of bankruptcy in the United States; 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 the health care system and the State of Indiana's Medicaid program; and

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

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 related treatment is likely to cost uninsured patients tens of thousands of dollars; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to equitably and effectively address the health care needs in the City of South Bend and State of Indiana, including the additional burden created by the COVID-19 pandemic, we must urge the U.S. Congress to expand health insurance coverage to provide comprehensive coverage to every resident of the United States without any cost sharing; and

**WHEREAS**, the global COVID-19 pandemic is continuing to cause physical, emotional, and economic hardships for nearly every resident in the United States; and,

**WHEREAS**, although the United States Congress passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Security Act (CARES) in an attempt to ease the suffering of many residents of the United States, residents are entitled to more than financial assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, because the *Health Care Emergency Guarantee Act* (H.R. 6906) would guarantee all residents full coverage for medically necessary health care without copays, deductibles, or other out-of-pocket costs only until an approved COVID-19 vaccine is widely available to the public and is therefore limited in its duration, a more permanent remedy is also required; and

**WHEREAS**, the *Medicare Act for All Act of 2019* (H.R. 1384) would provide similarly expanded coverage, but would make that coverage available in perpetuity, and not limited to the duration of the COVID-19 crisis; and

**WHEREAS**, other COVID-19 relief legislation packages will be and are being considered for adoption by Congress, some of which will provide sufficient health care coverage as provided above and some of which will not; and

**WHEREAS**, only comprehensive coverage can assure people that, no matter what health condition is ultimately responsible for symptoms, or what treatment turns out to be necessary, patients will be financially protected.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOUTH BEND, INDIANA, AS FOLLOWS:**

Section I. The South Bend Common Council hereby endorses and urges federal legislation to provide universal, comprehensive health coverage with zero cost-sharing for patients during the current crisis, such as the *Health Care Emergency Guarantee Act*.

Section II. The South Bend Common Council also hereby endorses and urges federal legislation to provide universal, comprehensive health coverage with zero cost-sharing for patients extending beyond the immediate COVID-19 crisis into perpetuity such as the *Medicare for All Act of 2019*.

Section III. The South Bend Common Council calls on Congress to work toward the immediate enactment of this, or substantially similar legislation, to ensure appropriate health care coverage for all residents of the United States during the current crisis and beyond.

Section IV. The South Bend Common Council requests the Clerk of Council to submit a copy of this Resolution to the City's U.S. Congressional delegation.

*Approved this 22<sup>nd</sup> day June 2020*

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Karen L. White, At Large Council Member

*Attest:*

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Dawn M. Jones, City Clerk