

## City of South San Francisco

P.O. Box 711 (City Hall, 400 Grand Avenue) South San Francisco, CA

## **City Council**

Resolution: RES 127-2021

File Number: 21-525 Enactment Number: RES 127-2021

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SINGLE-PAYER HEALTHCARE BY SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO CITY COUNCIL.

WHEREAS, every person in South San Francisco deserves high quality healthcare; 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 healthcare system, widespread illness, and taken a profound toll on our community's mental health, all of which is placing significant demands on our healthcare system, and

WHEREAS, many people delay seeking needed healthcare 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 ever-increasing costs of healthcare, 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 healthcare burden of the COVID-19 crisis, we must urge the United States Congress and California State Legislature to expand health insurance coverage to provide comprehensive coverage to every resident without any cost sharing; and

WHEREAS, Single-Payer Healthcare would provide health insurance for every person 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, Single-Payer Healthcare 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, recent polls show that a majority of Americans support Medicare for All; and

WHEREAS, Single-Payer Healthcare will guarantee that all residents of South San Francisco will be fully covered for healthcare 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 South San Francisco 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 South San Francisco City Council urges the United States Congress and the California State Legislature to enact emergency legislation to provide universal, comprehensive health coverage with zero cost-sharing for patients during this crisis and enthusiastically supports Single-Payer Healthcare and calls on our federal and state legislators to work toward its immediate enactment, assuring appropriate and efficient healthcare for all residents.

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At a meeting of the City Council on 6/23/2021, a motion was made by Councilmember Coleman, seconded by Vice Mayor Nagales, that this Resolution be approved. The motion passed.

**Yes:** 5 Mayor Addiego, Vice Mayor Nagales, Councilmember Nicolas, Councilmember Coleman, and Councilmember Flores

Attest by

Rosa Govea Acosta, City Clerk