

INTRODUCED: 11/8/2021

REFERRED TO: Committee of the Whole

SPONSOR: Councillors Brown and Jackson

DIGEST: endorses and urges Congress to pass the Healthcare Emergency Guarantee Act of 2020 (HR 6906, SB 2790) and the Medicare for All Act of 2019 (HR 1384, SB 1129) to provide universal, comprehensive health coverage with zero cost-sharing during the Covid-19 pandemic and beyond

SOURCE:

Initiated by: Councillor Brown

Drafted by: Councillor Brown

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ADOPTION:

Subject to approval or veto by Mayor

PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE:

Adoption and approvals

GENERAL COUNSEL APPROVAL:



Date: November 4, 2021

CITY-COUNTY SPECIAL RESOLUTION NO. , 2021

A SPECIAL RESOLUTION to endorse and urge the United States Congress to pass the Healthcare Emergency Guarantee Act of 2020 (HR 6906, SB 2790) and the Medicare for All Act of 2019 (HR 1384, SB 1129), to provide universal, comprehensive health coverage with zero cost-sharing during the Covid-19 pandemic and beyond.

WHEREAS, it is vital to the well-being and productivity of residents of Indianapolis to have quality healthcare; and

WHEREAS, before the pandemic, it is estimated that more than half a million Hoosiers did not have any health insurance; and

WHEREAS, many residents of Indianapolis who do have health insurance are underinsured, resulting in medical expenses that exceed their ability to pay; and

WHEREAS, in Indianapolis, about 31.8% of children under 6 and about 20.1% of residents overall live below the federal poverty level, and people living in poverty often forgo needed healthcare because of inability to pay; and

WHEREAS, over half the family bankruptcies in Indiana are caused by inability to pay well-being productivity of restaurants for medical expenses; and

WHEREAS, most health insurance plans do not cover dental care and many plans do not have adequate coverage of preventive sexual and reproductive health, mental health and substance abuse treatment; and

WHEREAS, the Covid pandemic has underscored the importance of every person having healthcare, because many who get sick cannot afford care, continuing to work while contagious; thus, at the same time, endangering their health and spreading the disease to others; and

WHEREAS, there are great health disparities in Indiana, as in the rest of the United States, demonstrated by high rates of maternal and infant mortality among black residents, as well as their higher rates of illness and death from Covid-19; and

WHEREAS, the Affordable Care Act and the Healthy Indiana Plan have improved access to healthcare, but still leave millions of people, including thousands in our community, without adequate healthcare coverage; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, the City of Indianapolis is projected to spend \$91.8 million on health insurance and related costs for its employees, which is approximately 6.8% of the total city budget; and it is expected that these costs would be substantially reduced in plans to fund Medicare for All; and

WHEREAS, the Healthcare Emergency Guarantee Act of 2020, proposed in the u.s. congress, would ensure access to comprehensive healthcare services during the covid-19 pandemic regardless of ability to pay; and

WHEREAS, the medicare for all act of 2019, proposed in the u.s. congress, would establish a universal single-payer health care system that would provide healthcare for all residents of the united states, without fees, copays or deductibles, regardless of pre-existing conditions, and with free choice of healthcare providers; and

WHEREAS, the medicare for all act of 2019 provides a comprehensive healthcare plan that includes coverage of dental care, hearing and vision care, mental healthcare, substance abuse treatment, reproductive and maternity services, and prescription drugs; and

WHEREAS, the medicare for all act of 2019 would reduce overall healthcare costs by negotiating drug prices with manufactures and eliminating payments to insurance companies; now, therefore:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY-COUNTY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS AND OF MARION COUNTY, INDIANA:

SECTION 1. The Indianapolis City-County Council supports the establishment of a comprehensive, universal, single-payer health care system, with zero cost-sharing, in the United States.

SECTION 2. The Council will advocate for the passage of the Emergency Healthcare Guarantee Act of 2020 and the Medicare for All Act of 2019.

SECTION 3. The Council will convey its support of these bills to the residents of Indianapolis and to the Indiana Congressional Delegation.

SECTION 4. This resolution shall be in full force and effect upon adoption and compliance with IC 36-3-4-14.

The foregoing was passed by the City-County Council this _____ day of _____, 2021, at _____ p.m.

ATTEST:

Vop Osili
President, City-County Council

SaRita Hughes
Clerk, City-County Council