

CITY OF KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE MEDICARE FOR ALL ACT OF 2021

Minutes of a regular meeting of the City Commission of the City held on July 5, 2022, at 7:00 o'clock p.m., local time, at City Hall.

PRESENT, Commissioners:

ABSENT, Commissioners:

WHEREAS, although the Affordable Care Act allowed healthcare coverage for millions of additional people and our healthcare system can perform great deeds, it is in a state of crisis; and,

WHEREAS, our employer based, for-profit healthcare system, rations healthcare according to ability to pay. It allows, approximately, thirty thousand people to die every year for lack of coverage and has diminished the overall health of our, family, friends and neighbors to the point that the U.S. ranks 35th in the world in health outcomes, and even worse for infant mortality and life expectancy, yet ranks first in healthcare costs; and,

WHEREAS, without new strategies, the never-ending rising costs of healthcare continue to challenge our already strapped budgets of our public employers and private businesses. Employers and Unions have tried all the healthcare insurance industries' attempts at controlling raising costs; PPO's, HMO's, HSA's, HRA's, bigger deductibles, more copays and coinsurance costs. These attempts, ultimately, only benefited the insurance industry's bottom line while leaving employers, employees and retirees more expensive or unaffordable healthcare or no healthcare at all; and,

WHEREAS, the Medicare for All Act of 2021 builds upon and expands Medicare to provide comprehensive medical benefits to every person in the United States. It is a publicly funded universal single payer healthcare program. Coverage includes primary care, vision, dental, prescription drugs, mental health, substance abuse, long-term services and supports, reproductive health care. The Act also includes universal coverage of long-term care with no cost-sharing for older Americans and individuals with disabilities and prioritizes home and community-based care over institutional care. We will no longer pay premiums, co-insurance costs, deductibles and copays. It frees us from insurance company's' interference in our medical decisions because patients will have the freedom to choose the doctors, hospitals, and other providers they wish to see without worrying about whether a provider is in-network. Importantly, the legislation eliminates the administrative waste and exorbitant profits required of our employer based for-profit healthcare system and will reduce prescription drug prices by requiring negotiations on drug prices. The Medicare For All Act would take this annual \$700 billion savings and redirect it into providing comprehensive universal healthcare to all who live in the United States; and,

WHEREAS, the COVID pandemic has demonstrated the inefficiency, inequality, racial disparity and inequity at the core of our employer based, for-profit, healthcare system. The values of healthcare insurance corporations and the venture capital interests, who are taking over our healthcare system, focus on profit and revenue not people and communities. In Michigan, as is throughout our country, Black, Latino,

and Indigenous peoples suffer from significant healthcare disparities compared to their White counterparts. People of color have been hospitalized at high rates due to COVID-19 and suffered death at rates alarmingly higher than would be predicted for their population sizes in Michigan. These same communities would see reductions in these healthcare disparities by having easy access to comprehensive, universal healthcare, provided by the Medicare For All Act of 2021 and without the interruptions in care, present, in our employer-based, for-profit healthcare system. The implementation of a universal single payer healthcare system is fundamental to healthcare justice; and,

WHEREAS, the proposals to fund the Medicare For All Act are based on a progressive tax structure which requires everyone pay their fair share in taxes, based on their ability to pay. This means 99% of us will actually be saving thousands of dollars we currently pay for healthcare because we will no longer pay for premiums, deductibles, copays and coinsurance costs. Those of us who earn \$29,000 annually or less will not pay any additional taxes for this healthcare. Unions and employers will no longer be required to negotiate healthcare plans; and,

WHEREAS, the Medical For All Act is the only healthcare program that can provide expanded universal coverage, save us money, control costs, eliminate healthcare inequalities, provide us true freedom of choice and prepare us for the healthcare challenges of the future. These are the values upon which this legislation is based; the focus is on people and communities; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kalamazoo City Commissioners vote for and pass this “Resolution” and encourages the immediate passage of the Medicare for All Act of 2021; calls on our State and Federal legislators to work toward immediate enactment; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that signed and dated copies of this resolution be sent, on City letterhead, to Michigan U.S. Senators Debbie Stabenow and Gary Peters, President Joseph Biden Vice President Kamala Harris, the Michigan Congressional Delegation, and the City’s affiliate organizations.

The above resolution was offered by _____ and supported by _____.

YEAS, Commissioners:

NAYS, Commissioners:

ABSTAIN, Commissioners:

CERTIFICATE

The foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by at a regular meeting held on July 5, 2022. Public notice was given and the meeting was conducted in full compliance with the Michigan Open Meetings Act (PA 267, 1976). Minutes of the meeting will be available as required by Act 381.

Scott A. Borling, City Clerk