

DRAFT RESOLUTION 2022 -107

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF KENT, OHIO ENDORSING THE MEDICARE FOR ALL ACT OF 2022 (S.4204); AND DECLARING THAT ACCESS TO QUALITY AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE IS A HUMAN RIGHT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS almost 5% of residents in the city of Kent, over 1,300 people, do not have health insurance while many more are underinsured; and

WHEREAS almost 24% of residents in the city of Kent, over 6,500 people, live below the federal poverty threshold; and

WHEREAS every resident of Kent deserves affordable and convenient access to high quality healthcare, and everyone's health is at risk when our neighbors cannot receive care; and

WHEREAS preventative health models create a healthy population, ensuring a reliable workforce and productive business environment, thereby strengthening local business; and

WHEREAS in the state of Ohio over 700,000 people do not have health insurance, while many more are underinsured; 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 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, 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 health care, which are further elevated due to the pandemic, may challenge our already strapped state and municipal budgets; 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 2022 would provide national health insurance for every person in the United States for all necessary medical care including prescription drugs; hospital, surgical and outpatient services; primary and preventive care; emergency services; dental, vision, hearing, and mental health care; reproductive care; and long-term care; and

WHEREAS the Medicare for All Act of 2022 would provide coverage without copays, deductibles or other out-of-pocket costs, and would slash bureaucratic fees, protect the doctor- patient relationship and assure patients a free choice of doctors; and

WHEREAS recent polls show that a majority of Americans support Medicare for All; and

WHEREAS the Medicare for All Act of 2022 will guarantee that all residents of Kent 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 quality of life for the residents of Kent will vastly improve through increased access to 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; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Kent, Portage County, Ohio:

SECTION 1. That Kent City Council members to support legislation 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 2022 (S. 4204) 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.

SECTION 2. That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of this Council, and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements of Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

SECTION 3. That this Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and welfare of the residents of this City, for which reason and other reasons manifest to this Council this Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and shall take effect and be in force immediately after passage.

PASSED: _____
Date

Jerry T. Fiala
Mayor and President of Council

EFFECTIVE: _____
Date

ATTEST: _____
Amy Wilkens
Clerk of Council

I, AMY WILKENS, CLERK OF COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENT, COUNTY OF PORTAGE, AND STATE OF OHIO, AND IN WHOSE CUSTODY THE ORIGINAL FILES AND RECORDS OF SAID COUNCIL ARE REQUIRED TO BE KEPT BY THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF OHIO, HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND EXACT COPY OF RESOLUTION No. _____, ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENT ON _____, 20_____.

(SEAL)

AMY WILKENS
CLERK OF COUNCIL