



## Administrative Report

DISCUSSION ITEM

**TO:** HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** James Vega, City Manager  
Robin Godfrey, Interim Asst. City Manager

**DATE REPORT PREPARED:** September 16, 2022

**MEETING DATE:** September 27, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Request from Mayor Betsy Stix to Adopt a Resolution Supporting a Universal, Single-Payer Healthcare Option at the State or Federal Level

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### **Recommendation:**

That the City Council consider the request from Mayor Betsy Stix to adopt a resolution declaring the City of Ojai's support of Medicare for All, and call on federal and state legislators to work towards passage of a bill establishing a universal, single-payer, Medicare-for-All-type option at the federal and/or state level.

### **Discussion**

At the City Council's September 13, 2022, Regular Meeting, Mayor Stix requested that the Council consider a resolution declaring the City's support for a universal, single-payer healthcare option at the next regular meeting. Mayor Stix provided the below information on this request:

Physicians for a National Health Program (PNHP), represented locally by Dr. Helen Petroff, reached out to Mayor Stix with the resolution request on behalf of PNHP, a nonprofit advocate for a universal, single-payer healthcare option. PNHP cites the following benefits of a universal healthcare option:

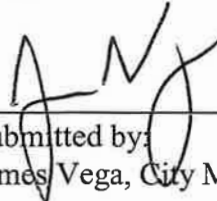
*Even after full implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), tens of millions of Americans will remain uninsured or only partially insured, and costs will continue to rise faster than the background inflation rate. We propose to replace the ACA with a publicly financed National Health Program (NHP) that would fully cover medical care for all Americans, while lowering costs by eliminating the profit-driven private insurance industry with its massive overhead. Hospitals, nursing homes, and other provider facilities would be nonprofit, and paid global operating budgets rather than fees for each service. Physicians could opt to be paid on a fee-for-service basis, but with fees adjusted to better reward primary care providers, or by salaries in facilities paid by global budgets. The initial increase in government costs would be offset by savings in premiums and out-of-pocket costs, and the*

*rate of medical inflation would slow, freeing up resources for unmet medical and public health needs.*

**Fiscal Impact**

Administrative costs for preparation of this report are included in the 2022/2023 budget.

  
Prepared by:  
Robin Godfrey, Interim Asst. City Manager

  
Submitted by:  
James Vega, City Manager

Attachment:

A – Resolution Supporting a Universal, Single-Payer Healthcare Option at the State or Federal Level

**CITY OF OJAI  
CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OJAI SUPPORTING  
LEGISLATIVE ACTION TO ESTABLISH A UNIVERSAL, SINGLE-PAYER HEALTH  
CARE OPTION AT THE STATE AND/OR FEDERAL LEVEL

**WHEREAS**, because healthcare is a human right and every person in the City of Ojai deserves quality, comprehensive healthcare that allows patients free choice of physician and other clinician; and

**WHEREAS**, the rising cost of healthcare strains household and business budgets, and medical bills are the number-one cause of personal bankruptcy; and

**WHEREAS**, even after passage of the federal Affordable Care Act and the State of California's expansion of Medi-Cal eligibility, millions of Californians, including many Ojai residents, remain uninsured; and

**WHEREAS**, half of all Americans skip or delay treatments because they cannot afford such services and, whereas 25% of people with health insurance skip recommended treatments and medications due to costly premiums, deductibles, and co-pays; and

**WHEREAS**, Ojai residents who do not qualify for Medi-Cal expansion of coverage or are unable to afford the insurance premium through California's "Covered California" health insurance marketplace established under the Affordable Care Act, continue to be without health insurance and either delay care or resort to emergency room care, which shifts the burden and cost of health care to the community; and

**WHEREAS**, the local cities of Santa Barbara, Goleta and Carpinteria as well as 23 other cities in California, including Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Sacramento have passed resolutions of support for universal, single-payer, Medicare-for-All healthcare systems; and

**WHEREAS**, in the United States Congress, H.R. 1976, the Medicare for All Act of 2021, is pending and S. 4204, the Medicare For All Act of 2022, was introduced into the United States Senate in May of 2022; and in the California State Legislature, A.B.1400, the California Guaranteed Health Care for All Act was recently withdrawn from consideration in the California Assembly, but a new, similar bill is anticipated to be introduced in the Assembly in 2023.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** The City of Ojai supports the concept of Medicare for All and calls on our federal and state legislators to work toward passage of a bill establishing a universal, single-payer, Medicare for All-type system at the federal and/or state level.

**PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED** this 27<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2022 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

CITY OF OJAI, CALIFORNIA

By:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Betsy Stix, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date signed

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gail Davis, Deputy City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Matthew Summers, City Attorney