

Resolution No. 189-2023

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

Supporting Medicare for All and urging the U.S. Congress to enact emergency legislation to provide universal, comprehensive healthcare with zero cost-sharing for patients.

By Council Member McCormack

WHEREAS, every person in Cleveland, and indeed the United States, deserves high-quality healthcare; and

WHEREAS, the number of Americans without health insurance before the COVID-19 pandemic was 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 has taken a profound toll on our communities' mental health, all of which is placing significant demands on the U.S. healthcare system; and

WHEREAS, many people delay seeking needed healthcare due to an inability to pay, leading to a sicker and poorer population, which 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, elevated further due to the pandemic, will challenge our already strapped City budget; 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, this Council calls upon 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 Medicare for All 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; reproductive care; dental and vision care; and long-term care; and

WHEREAS, Medicare for All would provide to every person in the United States, including residents of Cleveland, full healthcare 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

WHEREAS with Medicare for All, the quality of life for Cleveland residents will vastly improve because they would be able to get the ongoing healthcare they need, instead of waiting until they have a healthcare emergency that could upend their lives as well as further burden local resources; and

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

WHEREAS, this resolution constitutes an emergency measure for the immediate preservation of public peace, property, health or safety, now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLEVELAND:

Section 1. That this Council supports Medicare for All and urges the U.S. Congress to enact emergency legislation to provide universal, comprehensive healthcare with zero cost-sharing for patients.

Section 2. That the Clerk of Council is directed to transmit copies of this resolution to all members of the United States Congress.

Section 3. That this resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and, provided it receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption and approval by the Mayor; otherwise it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

