RESOLUTION R-2023-45

A RESOLUTION OF THE LONGMONT CITY COUNCIL ENDORSING IMPROVED
MEDICARE FOR ALL AS THE STATE OR NATIONAL HEALTH SYSTEM

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THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LONGMONT, COLORADO, RESOLVES:

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically demonstrated the failings of our
current patchwork of health care programs serving Longmont and the nation; and

WHEREAS, all Longmont residents should have access to a state or national not-for-profit,
single payer, healthcare financing system that pays for comprehensive, high quality, affordable
health care, including dental, vision, hearing, and mental health services; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has clearly demonstrated that access to health care
should not be tied to employment; and

WHEREAS, the pandemic has highlighted the systemic racial bias present in our health
care system that contributed to people of color having poorer access to health care and poorer
health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, the pandemic has demonstrated the critical roles people of all incomes levels
provide to keep our economy functioning properly and that everyone must have access to high
quality, affordable, health care to continue providing these services; and

WHEREAS, the high cost of health care is a significant factor in the inability of many
Longmont residents to find affordable housing; and
WHEREAS, Longmont residents should not have to worry about loss of affordable health care when making decisions about marriage or divorce or about providing care for elderly, sick or young family members; and

WHEREAS, patients should have free access to qualified providers without the limitations of In-Network and Out of Network structures; and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive national health care system should negotiate the prices for all prescription drugs as is done in all other developed countries, and

WHEREAS, many small businesses in Longmont struggle to attract and retain employees because employees are often looking for jobs with health care benefits; and

WHEREAS, the Longmont economy would benefit when entrepreneurs have the freedom to pursue their vision without being constrained by the potential loss of health care for themselves and their family members if they leave existing employment; and

WHEREAS, health care should be pre-paid by monthly premiums and other taxes, based on one's ability to pay, without deductibles or copayments that create barriers to care; and

WHEREAS, a state or national health care financing system would set compensation for licensed health care providers at levels that attract and retain talented professionals; and

WHEREAS, the high cost and complexity of the many programs currently funding health care in America are failing to meet the needs of too many individuals, families and businesses in Longmont and the nation as a whole; and

WHEREAS, limited access to effective mental health resources contributes significantly to homelessness in Longmont; and

WHEREAS, challenges to the local access and affordability crisis can only be addressed at the state and/or federal levels of government; and
WHEREAS, the current dysfunctional health care financing system and its impact on Longmont residents will limit the City from achieving City Council goals; and

WHEREAS, the final report released September 2021 from the Health Care Cost Analysis Task Force (funded by the State Legislature via HB 19-1176 and prepared by the University of Colorado School of Public Health) identified a state run, not-for-profit, single payer health care financing system as the most cost effective way to provide comprehensive, affordable health care to all residents of Colorado; and

WHEREAS, the Longmont City Council believes an improved Medicare for All model for financing health care can address all the criteria and concerns listed above.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. The Longmont City Council hereby urge the Governor of Colorado, our state legislators, and our congressional representatives to actively support state or federal legislation that results in comprehensive, affordable health care for all Longmont residents that is funded by a public, not-for-profit, single payer system. An example of such a system is SB 4204, the Medicare for All Act of 2022.

2. A copy of this resolution should be sent by the Mayor to the Governor of Colorado, our state legislators, and our federal elected representatives.

Passed and adopted this 25th day of April, 2023.

[Signature]

MAYOR
ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM

Tim Hole

ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY

PROOFREAD

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND SUBSTANCE:

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT

CA File: 23-002283

Apr 21, 2023

DATE

Apr 21, 2023

DATE

Apr 27, 2023

DATE