

Resolution in Support of the Medicare for All Act of 2019

WHEREAS, the number of Americans without health insurance is still 28 million, while 46 million Americans remain underinsured, despite important gains made since the implementation of the Affordable Care Act;

WHEREAS, the United States paid approximately \$3.5 trillion in total healthcare spending in 2017, an increase of 3.9 percent over the previous year and, at nearly \$11,000 per person, the highest healthcare per capita spending rate in the world;

WHEREAS, despite spending nearly 19 percent of gross domestic product on healthcare, the United States has worse health outcomes compared with other developed countries, including a maternal mortality rate up to five times more than other developed countries, a higher infant mortality rate, a lower life expectancy, and higher rates of diabetes, heart disease, and preventable deaths;

WHEREAS, the Affordable Care Act has resulted in dramatic increases in health insurance coverage since its passage in 2010, yet the 14 states, including North Carolina, not participating in ACA-authorized Medicaid expansion perpetuate non-coverage for low-income individuals;

WHEREAS, every person in Durham deserves comprehensive, quality healthcare;

WHEREAS, in Durham, as in the rest of the U.S., residents of color are less likely than white residents to have health insurance;

WHEREAS, it is a top priority of the City of Durham to redress past and current inequities facing our residents;

WHEREAS, medical costs are a significant barrier to seeking medical care for residents in Durham;

WHEREAS, rising costs of healthcare add additional challenges to our municipal budget and our small businesses;

WHEREAS the Medicare for All Act of 2019 would provide national health insurance for every person in the United States for all necessary medical care including prescription drugs, hospital, surgical, outpatient services primary and preventive care, emergency services, women's reproductive care, dental and vision care, long-term care, 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;

WHEREAS, the Medicare for All Act of 2019 will guarantee that all residents of Durham will be fully covered for healthcare without copays, deductibles, or other out-of-pocket costs and save millions in taxpayer dollars now spent on premiums;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Durham City Council expresses its enthusiastic support for the Medicare for All Act of 2019 and calls upon our federal representatives to work toward its immediate enactment, assuring comprehensive and quality healthcare for all residents of the United States.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Durham requests that the City Clerk send copies of this resolution to Rep. G.K. Butterfield, Rep. David Price, Sen. Thom Tillis, and Sen. Richard Burr.

This is the 15th day of April, 2019.