

09-0002-5160

RESOLUTION

RULES & GOVERNMENT

JUL 24 2009

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, cities are on the frontlines of the health care crisis with high rates of uninsurance and rapidly escalating costs affecting residents, businesses, and workers; and

WHEREAS, city governments spend billions of dollars to provide health coverage to millions of employees, dependents, and retirees, and rising health costs affect cities' ability to provide other city services; and

WHEREAS, many cities face serious health workforce shortages, particularly among primary care professionals in low-income communities; and

WHEREAS, many families and individuals served by city programs have unmet health and mental health needs, complicating city efforts to provide effective services; and

WHEREAS, local public health agencies receive limited federal and state support despite the cost effectiveness of public health strategies in preventing and addressing chronic diseases; and

WHEREAS, nearly 46 million Americans lack health insurance and are less likely than their insured counterparts to receive recommended preventive and screening services, or medicines and treatments that meet the professional standard, and are more likely to die prematurely; and

WHEREAS, nearly 9 million children lack health insurance coverage and therefore have fewer well-child visits, worse access to specialists, fewer immunizations and more visits to the emergency room than children with health coverage; and

WHEREAS, millions more Americans are underinsured and at risk of financial ruin if they experience a major illness; and

WHEREAS, health care costs, and employment-based health insurance premiums in particular, have increased at rates much higher than inflation or wage growth for the last decade; and

WHEREAS, health costs threaten the global competitiveness of American businesses; and

WHEREAS, our current health care system focuses on treating disease rather than preventing it or promoting wellness; and

WHEREAS, there are large disparities in health status and health outcomes based on race, ethnicity, and physical ability, and many health care providers do not offer adequate service to patients with limited English proficiency or limited physical or mental ability; and

WHEREAS, chronic diseases pose the greatest challenge to our health care system and our health care delivery system is not well-organized to prevent and treat them; and

WHEREAS, public hospitals and clinics, community health centers, and other safety net providers provide care to underserved individuals regardless of income, health coverage, or immigration status; and

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WHEREAS, many local governments have developed innovations to expand access to quality health care, make health services more affordable, and improve health care quality while acknowledging that any comprehensive reform must be led by the federal government; and

WHEREAS, leaders in both political parties serving in Congress and the White House have called for enactment of comprehensive health care reform; and

WHEREAS, the President has pledged enactment of comprehensive reform this year, and substantial progress is being made in Congress to engage stakeholders and craft comprehensive reform; and

WHEREAS, that comprehensive reform should reduce long-term growth of health care costs for businesses and government; protect families from bankruptcy or debt because of health care costs; guarantee choice of doctors and health plans; invest in prevention and wellness; improve patient safety and quality of care; assure affordable, quality health coverage for all Americans; maintain coverage when someone changes or loses a job; end barriers to coverage for people with pre-existing medical conditions; support public hospitals and other providers in the health care safety net so that those who fall through the cracks of expanded health coverage may still receive care; ensure that surge capacity is available in case of public health emergencies; and ensure that the cultural competencies achieved by providers serving diverse populations are preserved and enhanced in a reformed health care system;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2009-2010 Federal Legislative Program support for the immediate enactment of the Administration's health care reform principles.

PRESENTED BY: EGH
ERIC GARCETTI
Councilman, 13th District

SECONDED BY: Joseff Huisan
JH Joseff Huisan

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2009-2010
FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM