

RESOLUTION

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 first have been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the federal government established the Medicaid program in 1965 to help pay for health care services provided to low-income patients; and

WHEREAS, the Medicaid program is known as Medi-Cal in California and requires the State to contribute matching funds; and

WHEREAS, the Affordable Care Act provided options for states to expand Medi-Cal enrollment, and in California approximately one-third of residents (11 million people) are currently enrolled in Medi-Cal; and

WHEREAS, rapid enrollment growth in Medi-Cal and insufficient reimbursement levels have challenged the ability of medical providers to provide high-quality and timely access to care for Medi-Cal patients; and

WHEREAS, as initiated by AB 1383 (Jones), beginning in 2009 and subsequently continued by various legislative actions, California hospitals began paying a fee to enable the State to obtain additional federal matching funds; this legislation was renewed in subsequent years and expires on December 31, 2016; and

WHEREAS, California hospitals receive approximately \$3 billion in additional federal matching funds per year as a result of the implementation of the fee; however, there are concerns that the State has previously used a portion of these funds to address budget shortfalls in unrelated areas; and

WHEREAS, on the November 8, 2016 statewide ballot is the Medi-Cal Reimbursement Initiative which will eliminate the December 31, 2016 sunset date of SB 239 and will include provisions to ensure that funds are restricted for use in the Medi-Cal program; and

WHEREAS, approval of the ballot initiative will ensure that City residents who are enrolled in Medi-Cal, including people with disabilities, will be able to access non-emergency medical care.

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 2015-16 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for the "Medi-Cal Reimbursement Initiative" which has qualified for the November 8, 2016 statewide ballot and will make permanent existing law that requires hospitals pay a fee to the State for the purpose of obtaining additional Medicaid/Medi-Cal matching funds while ensuring that such fees are used for their intended purpose.

FEB 26 2015

PRESENTED BY:   
DAVID E. RYU  
Councilmember, 4th District

SECONDED BY: 

ORIGINAL