

RESOLUTION

RULES, ELECTIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

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, the current United States health care system fails to provide quality, affordable health care to every US resident and wastes hundreds of billions each year in unnecessary administrative costs; and

WHEREAS, the United States spends nearly twice as much per capita on health care costs as other comparable countries yet achieves significantly lower health outcomes, including life expectancy and infant mortality rates, among others; and

WHEREAS, the United States spends more than \$300 billion each year on prescription drugs, leading to record profits for pharmaceutical companies at the expense of the financial and physical wellbeing of working families; and

WHEREAS, patients in the United States – even those with insurance – face financial barriers to health care, and are often faced with choices between not accessing the care they need or cutting back on food and/or other basic items, or depleting their savings to pay for medical bills; and

WHEREAS, despite the Affordable Care Act resulting in significant increases in health care coverage for US residents since its original passage, tens of millions of US residents still remain uninsured, including nearly 3 million Californians; and

WHEREAS, approximately one-third of US adults go without recommended care, do not see a doctor when they are ill, or do not fill a prescription medication because of costs; and

WHEREAS, currently pending in Congress is a bill, The Medicare for All Act (HR 1384) which would expand the cost-effective and efficient government-sponsored Medicare program to finance and provide comprehensive, high-quality health care for every resident of the United States; and

WHEREAS, The Medicare for All Act would eliminate all costs for premiums, deductibles, co-pays, and other out-of-pocket costs that cause financial hardship for tens of millions of US residents every year; and

WHEREAS, The Medicare for All Act would significantly reduce the cost of prescription drugs by authorizing Medicare to negotiate lower drug prices in a similar fashion as many countries around the world; and

WHEREAS, various studies have estimated that the US would save between \$2 trillion and \$5 trillion over the next decade under a Medicare for All program, based on spending projections under the current system, due to major savings in administrative costs, lower prescription drug prices, and improved efficiency of the health care system, and;

WHEREAS, public opinion polls have found that more than 70 percent of US voters support a national Medicare for All program; and

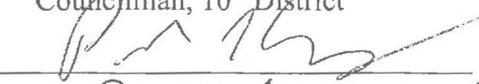
WHEREAS, health care is a fundamental human right that should be guaranteed to all US residents;

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 2019-2020 Federal Legislative Program SUPPORT for HR 1384, The Medicare for All Act, which would expand health care coverage, eliminate health care disparities, and lower the cost of health care for all US residents.

PRESENTED BY:


HERB J. WESSON, Jr.
Councilman, 10th District

SECONDED BY:




ORIGINAL

AUG 23 2013

