

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 or the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, there is a gap in coverage for treatment of mental illness in the United States and this gap is significant for low income people who are in need of mental health treatment; and

WHEREAS, the gap in coverage for low income population is known as the Institution for Mental Disease (IMD) exclusion which prohibits the use of federal Medicaid financing for patients 21 to 65 living in residential facilities with more than 16 beds; and

WHEREAS, in 1965, the Social Security Act was amended to establish the federal Medicaid and Medicare program with a built in IMD exclusion; and

WHEREAS, the intention of the IMD exclusion was to prevent states from shifting the responsibility and cost of inpatient psychiatric care to the federal government, but the states have been unable to provide adequate coverage; and

WHEREAS, in Section 1115 in the Social Security Act, the United States Secretary of Health and Human Service has the authority to waive specific provisions of health and welfare programs such as Medicaid; and

WHEREAS, in November 2018, the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services announced that the federal government would consider state applications for IMD exclusion waivers which would allow Medicaid coverage for IMD treatment to patients with severe mental illness; and

WHEREAS, there is a significant number of individuals with severe mental illness in the homeless population; and

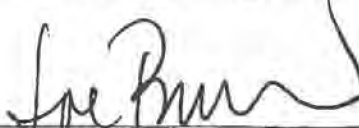
WHEREAS, Los Angeles County introduced a motion on February 5, 2019 directing the Chief Executive Officer to send a five signature letter to Governor Gavin Newsom, the California Department of Health Care Services, and the Los Angeles County State Legislative Delegation asking the State to apply for the 1115 Medicaid waiver to allow for the expansion of Medicaid coverage for the excluded population in need of inpatient mental health treatment; and

WHEREAS, the County sent this letter to Governor Newsom on February 15, 2019 requesting the State to apply for the Section 1115 Medicaid waiver; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles should fully support this effort and request the same from the State inasmuch as mental illness treatment is important to the City residents who have been excluded from this treatment in the past;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Los Angeles, by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2019-2020 State Legislative Program, a request that Governor Gavin Newsom direct the California Department of Health Care Services to apply for the Section 1115 Medicaid waiver in the Social Security Act to allow for the expansion of Medicaid coverage to the excluded population that is in need of inpatient mental health treatment.

PRESENTED BY: _____


JOE BUSCAINO
Councilmember, 15th District

SECONDED BY: _____



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