

Draft for Medicare for All resolution for the City of Orlando

WHEREAS, high quality health care is a human right for every person in the City of Orlando; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. multi-payer healthcare system, which costs \$3.5 trillion annually, is the most expensive in the world, yet has left nearly 30 million Americans without health insurance and over 40 million underinsured¹; and

WHEREAS, the rising costs of healthcare are straining both our limited municipal budget and the small businesses which are integral to our community's well-being; and

WHEREAS, the City of Orlando has an uninsured rate of 13.5% total, and specifically an uninsured rate of 45.1% for those that are unemployed, a significant public health concern for the city²; and

WHEREAS, [recent national polls](#) show that a majority of Americans support Medicare for All³; and

WHEREAS, Medicare for All would cost less than our current system. Medicare for All would save around 68,000 lives a year while reducing U.S. health care spending by around 13%, or \$450 billion a year⁴; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 1384, the Medicare for All Act of 2019, and all subsequent legislation by the 117th Congress, would provide universal single-payer health insurance for every person in the United States for all necessary medical care including prescription drugs; hospital, surgical and outpatient services; primary and preventive care; emergency services; reproductive care; dental and vision care; long-term care; and mental health care, and

WHEREAS, Medicare for All would provide coverage without copays, deductibles or other out-of-pocket costs and would slash bureaucracy, protect the doctor-patient relationship, and assure patients an unrestricted choice of doctors; and

¹<https://www.actionnetwork.org/petitions/new-haven-needs-medicare-for-all>

²<https://www.bizjournals.com/orlando/news/2020/04/30/more-uninsured-more-problems-pandemic-to-hike.html>

³<https://thehill.com/hilltv/what-americas-thinking/494602-poll-69-percent-of-voters-support-medicare-for-all>

⁴<https://www.citizen.org/news/fact-check-medicare-for-all-would-save-the-u-s-trillions-public-option-would-leave-millions-uninsured-not-garner-savings/>

WHEREAS, adoption of H.R. 1384, the Medicare for All Act of 2019, and all subsequent legislation by the 117th Congress, would guarantee that all residents of the City of Orlando will be fully covered for health care, and would provide significant savings in taxpayer dollars which are currently spent on ever-rising premiums that provide inadequate health insurance coverage; and

WHEREAS, the quality of life for the residents of the City of Orlando will vastly improve because they would be able to get the ongoing care they need, instead of waiting until they have a medical emergency that could upend their lives and further burden local resources;

WHEREAS, unbundling healthcare from employment and ensuring high-quality healthcare for all would begin to address systemic inequities that have disproportionately impacted the health of the most vulnerable communities including, and not limited to, the unhoused, low-income, Black, Brown, Indigenous, and other People of Color; and

WHEREAS, addressing people's long-term health needs would strengthen the workforce across all employment, industries, and sectors; and

WHEREAS, providing healthcare for all persons would achieve the long-term vision of the City of Orlando to be recognized as an equitable, world-class destination to live, work, and play; and

WHEREAS, Medicare for All would help achieve the City of Orlando's Future-Ready City Master Plan's goal of Equity For All Residents; and

WHEREAS, the current COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in a total of 823 deaths⁵ in Orange County, record levels of unemployment, and loss of employer-sponsored health insurance, a severely strained health care system, widespread illness, and taken a profound toll on our community's mental health, all of which is placing significant demands on our health care system with 77% of hospital beds occupied in Orange County as of January 2021; and

WHEREAS, the H.R. 6906 *Health Care Emergency Guarantee Act* would ensure all residents full coverage for medically necessary health care without copays, deductibles or other out-of-pocket costs from now until an FDA-approved COVID-19 vaccine is widely available to the public; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Orlando City Council hereby endorses and urges passage of the *Health Care Emergency Guarantee Act* to provide universal, comprehensive health coverage with zero cost-sharing for patients during this crisis; and that the Orlando City Council enthusiastically supports Medicare for All and calls on our federal legislators to work toward enactment of H.R.1384, the Medicare for All Act of 2019, and all subsequent legislation by the 117th Congress, that will assure appropriate and efficient health care for all residents beyond the pandemic.

⁵ <http://orangecountyfl.net/EmergencySafety/Coronavirus.aspx#.YADk5OhKiUn>

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Orlando City Council expresses its enthusiastic support for a state-level single-payer program in Florida, such as S.B.1486 *Healthy Florida Act* in the Florida State Senate - and calls on our state legislators to work toward the immediate introduction in the Florida House of similar legislation and the enactment of such legislation to guarantee healthcare to all Florida residents.