

OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY
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RESOLUTION NO. RES-21-0059

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3 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
4 CITY OF LONG BEACH IN SUPPORT OF MEDICARE FOR
5 ALL SUPPORTING LEGISLATION, POLICIES AND GRANTS
6 THAT WILL ESTABLISH A NATIONAL HEALTH
7 INSURANCE PROGRAM TO PROVIDE EVERY RESIDENT
8 OF THE UNITED STATES WITH HEALTH INSURANCE
9 THROUGH AN EXPANDED MEDICARE PROGRAM,
10 INCLUSIVE OF IMPROVED AND COMPREHENSIVE
11 BENEFITS

12
13 WHEREAS, the United States spends nearly twice as much per capita on
14 health care as all other comparable countries and yet ranks only 35th in the world by
15 global health standards, including on such critical barometers as average life expectancy,
16 infant mortality, maternal mortality, and death from preventable diseases; and

17 WHEREAS, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) enacted important
18 improvements, primarily through the expansion of Medicaid in states that have agreed to
19 do so, and limits on some insurance industry abuses, that reform left tens of millions with
20 a continuing crisis in access, cost, and quality of care; and

21 WHEREAS, the uninsured rate for U.S. adults has risen for four straight
22 years up to nearly 30 million, even after implementation of the ACA, with the greatest
23 increase among women, young adults, and lower-income people; and

24 WHEREAS, tens of millions more who pay for insurance remain
25 underinsured due to the still largely unregulated high cost of medical care that has led to
26 one-third of all GoFundMe accounts being established to pay for exorbitant medical bills;
27 and

28 WHEREAS, more than 40 percent of all U.S. adults under the age of 65

1 forego needed medical care, 30 percent fail to fill a prescription or take less than the
2 recommended dose, and a third said they had to choose in the past year between paying
3 for food, heating, housing, or health care, according to a 2018 survey by the West Health
4 Institute and NORC at the University of Chicago; and

5 WHEREAS, the inability to pay medical bills continues to be a leading
6 cause of personal bankruptcy, and people who need medical care should never face
7 bankruptcy as a result of needing care; and

8 WHEREAS, the ever-rising cost of health care and its discriminatory
9 characteristics contribute to the growing national chasm in wealth inequality; and

10 WHEREAS, discrimination, based on race, ethnicity, national origin, gender,
11 sexual orientation, age, socioeconomic status, and where one lives is particularly
12 systematic to a profit-based health care system; and

13 WHEREAS, 55 percent of the uninsured are people of color; African
14 Americans suffer higher death rates than whites at an earlier age due to heart disease,
15 diabetes, cancer, HIV, and infant mortality; African-American women are three to four
16 times more likely than white women to die in childbirth; and African American and Latino
17 students are more likely to experience health risks due to exposure to toxins and air
18 pollution at school; and

19 WHEREAS, continued attacks on the ACA by the Trump administration and
20 GOP in Congress have given insurance companies a new pretext to demand double digit
21 premium increases, while the government's failure to maintain taxpayer subsidies to help
22 moderate-income families pay the high cost of insurance plans has exacerbated the crisis
23 experienced by millions of American families; and

24 WHEREAS, employer-provided health benefits are declining and
25 employees' costs are increasing through cost-shifting to workers, including increased cost
26 of premiums for workers covered by employer-paid insurance, which have risen by an
27 average of 65 percent, and deductibles have risen by an average of 212 percent over the
28 past decade; and

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WHEREAS, many other countries around the world use taxes to pay for national universal health care, which leaves U.S. based companies that pay for employee health care at a competitive disadvantage.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Long Beach resolves as follows:

Section 1. The City Council of the City of Long Beach does hereby indicate its support for Medicare for All supporting legislation, policies and grants that will establish a national health insurance program to provide every resident of the United States with health insurance through an expanded Medicare program, inclusive of improved and comprehensive benefits.

Section 2. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption by the City Council, and the City Clerk shall certify the vote adopting this resolution.


I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the City Council of the City of Long Beach at its meeting of June 8, 2021, by the following vote:

Ayes:	Councilmembers:	<u>Zendejas, Allen, Supernaw, Mungo,</u>
		<u>Saro, Uranga, Austin, Richardson.</u>

Noes:	Councilmembers:	<u>None.</u>

Absent:	Councilmembers:	<u>Price.</u>

Recusal(s):	Councilmembers:	<u>None.</u>



City Clerk