



**CHARLES PARKIN**  
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# NB-21

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Erin M. Weesner-McKinley  
Marsha M. Yasuda  
Theodore B. Zinger

June 8, 2021

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
City of Long Beach  
California

### RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt resolution in support of 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 (Citywide)

### DISCUSSION:

Pursuant to your request on March 23, 2021, a resolution has been prepared and is submitted for your consideration.

### SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Very truly yours,

CHARLES PARKIN, City Attorney

By: *Gary J Anderson*

GARY J. ANDERSON  
Principal Deputy City Attorney

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RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF LONG BEACH IN SUPPORT OF 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

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

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

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

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

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

