

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE MEDICARE FOR ALL ACT OF 2019

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

September 23, 2020

Sponsored by Commissioner Katie Scott

WHEREAS, the number of Americans without health insurance is still nearly 30 million, while more than 40 million Americans remain underinsured, despite important gains made since the implementation of the Affordable Care Act; and

WHEREAS, every person in Washtenaw County deserves high quality health care; and

WHEREAS, the never-ending rising costs of health care add challenges to our already strapped municipal budget and our small businesses, which keep our communities thriving; and

WHEREAS the Medicare for All Act of 2019 would provide national health insurance for every person in the United States for all necessary medical care including prescription drugs, hospital stays, surgical and outpatient services, primary and preventive care, emergency services; reproductive care, dental and vision care, and long-term care; and

WHEREAS the Medicare for All Act of 2019 would provide coverage without copays, deductibles or other out-of-pocket costs, and would slash bureaucracy, protect the doctor-patient relationship and assure patients a free choice of doctors; and

WHEREAS, A Hill-HarrisX poll of registered voters (April 2020) show that 69 % of Americans support Medicare-for-All; and

WHEREAS, the Medicare for All Act of 2019 will guarantee that all residents of Washtenaw County will be fully covered for health care without copays, deductibles or other out-of-pocket costs, and would save millions in taxpayer dollars now spent on premiums that provide often inadequate health insurance coverage for government employees; and

WHEREAS, the quality of life for the residents of Washtenaw County 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 as well as further burden local resources;

WHEREAS, the burden placed on local governments such as Washtenaw County by health benefits for employees and public health programs would be significantly alleviated by having a federal single payer Medicare for All program in place;

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent economic recession has left tens of millions more Americans without health insurance at the very moment in time that all Americans should be able to seek medical help at little to no cost, thus exposing the riskiness and unsustainability of a health insurance system based primarily around employment;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washtenaw County Commission enthusiastically supports the Medicare for All Act of 2019 ([House Bill H.R. 1384](#) and [Senate Bill S.1129](#)) and calls on our federal legislators to work toward its immediate enactment, assuring appropriate and efficient health care for all residents of the United States.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Washtenaw County Commission expresses its enthusiastic support for [State Bill 6285, which establishes a state level, single payer program known as MiCare](#), is sponsored by Representative Yousef Rabhi (53rd District), and calls upon our state legislators to work toward its immediate enactment.