

Venice City Council Resolution

Title: RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO APPROVE MEDICAID EXPANSION FOR CERTAIN QUALIFIED ADULTS UNDER THE AGE OF 65 IN AN EFFORT TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF FLORIDIANS

WHEREAS, the Venice City Council prides itself on the well-being of all of its residents; and

WHEREAS, over 10,970 adults in Sarasota County between the age of 19-64 are earning below 138 percent of the Federal Poverty Level and are uninsured; and

WHEREAS, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act provides federal funding for states to expand Medicaid to all citizens earning less than 138 percent of the federal poverty level; and

WHEREAS, this Medicaid expansion would extend insurance coverage to more than 800,000 Floridians; and

WHEREAS, according to the Florida Policy Institute, Florida would see a reduction in General Revenue expenditure of roughly \$200 million in Fiscal Year 2022-23 by expanding the Medicaid program; and

WHEREAS, our state decision to not expand Medicaid means that some of our poorest citizens – especially adults without children with incomes below 100 percent of the federal poverty level – will go without insurance coverage; and

WHEREAS, in light of COVID-19 and for public health purposes, it is necessary that Floridians who are most in need have access to health insurance; and

WHEREAS, the NAME OF ENTITY believes all residents should have access to quality, affordable health coverage.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the members of the Venice City Council do hereby urge the Florida legislature and the Governor to accept federal funds to expand Medicaid in Florida.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the members Venice's state legislative delegation, Governor Ron DeSantis, and the current and incoming Speaker of the House and President of the Senate.

Signed,

This the XXth day of XXXX, 2020

Why We Need Medicaid Expansion

- As of May 2020, 25% of non-elderly Floridian adults do not have health insurance.
- 607,000 workers lost their jobs and healthcare coverage in Florida between February and May 2020, causing the second highest rate of uninsured workers in America at 25 percent of the state's non-elderly population.
- Medicaid currently is limited to very low-income parents of minor children who earn no more than 138% of the Federal Poverty Level -- \$6,924 a year for a family of three; pregnant women; seniors and people with disabilities. Adults without children, no matter how low their income, are not eligible for Medicaid in Florida.
- From 2014-2017, 2,776 older Floridians (aged 55-64) died prematurely due to the state's failure to expand Medicaid.
- Lowers healthcare premiums for all FL workers. Health insurance premiums are 7-11% lower in expansion states vs non-expansion states.
- ***Lack of Medicaid Expansion costs FL home owners close to \$200 million every year.***
When uninsured Floridians go to the emergency room for care, local taxes cover the cost. The cost of health care for Florida's uninsured typically falls to hospitals and local governments. If Florida legislators approved Medicaid Expansion, 90% of their medical expenses would be covered by the federal government, and not by local taxes. The net annual healthcare losses paid by Florida taxpayers alone is nearly \$200 million every year!

Researchers project state general revenue savings in the range of \$198.9 million annually to \$385 million over a five-year period.

What Floridians Want

The majority of Floridians support Medicaid expansion. According to a poll conducted by the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, 63% of Floridians are in favor of accepting Federal Funds vs. 25% who oppose. Florida Policy Institute estimates that Medicaid expansion would reduce the number of uninsured Floridians ages 19 to 64 by 29% (1.2 million people). This includes Floridians who lost employer-sponsored insurance as a result of COVID-19. And 90% of the medical expenses would be shifted from the county and state to the federal government.

Groundswell of Support for Medical Expansion

Resolutions urging the Florida legislature to pass Medicaid expansion have passed in Tampa, Cocoa, Gainesville, Miami-Dade County, and Gadsden County. Other resolutions are being considered in Alachua county, Leon County, Brevard County, Palm Beach County, and Miami Beach. Alachua County has asked The League of Cities to add Medicaid expansion to its current list of legislative goals. A list of 41 State organizations supporting Medicare Expansion are listed at:

<https://www.healthcareforfl.org/join>