



City of Miami

Legislation

Resolution

City Hall
3500 Pan American
Drive
Miami, FL 33133
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File Number: 09-00647

Final Action Date:

A RESOLUTION OF THE MIAMI CITY COMMISSION SUPPORTING AND CALLING FOR THE IMMEDIATE ENACTMENT OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S HEALTH CARE REFORM PRINCIPLES AND AGREEING THAT THIS COMPREHENSIVE REFORM SHOULD DO THE FOLLOWING: 1) REDUCE LONG-TERM GROWTH OF HEALTH CARE COSTS FOR BUSINESSES AND GOVERNMENT; 2) PROTECT FAMILIES FROM BANKRUPTCY OR DEBT BECAUSE OF HEALTH CARE COSTS; 3) GUARANTEE CHOICE OF DOCTORS AND HEALTH PLANS; 4) INVEST IN PREVENTION AND WELLNESS; 5) IMPROVE PATIENT SAFETY AND QUALITY OF CARE; 6) ASSURE AFFORDABLE, QUALITY HEALTH COVERAGE FOR ALL AMERICANS; 7) MAINTAIN COVERAGE WHEN SOMEONE CHANGES OR LOSES A JOB; AND 8) END BARRIERS TO COVERAGE FOR PEOPLE WITH PRE-EXISTING MEDICAL CONDITIONS; THE COMMISSION FURTHER URGES CONGRESS TO SUPPORT PUBLIC HOSPITALS AND OTHER PROVIDERS IN THE HEALTH CARE SAFETY NET SO THAT THOSE WHO FALL THROUGH THE CRACKS OF EXPANDED HEALTH COVERAGE: MAY STILL RECEIVE CARE; CAPACITY IS AVAILABLE IN CASE OF PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES; AND THE CULTURAL COMPETENCIES ACHIEVED BY PROVIDERS SERVING DIVERSE POPULATIONS ARE PRESERVED AND ENHANCED IN A REFORMED HEALTH CARE SYSTEM; DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO TRANSMIT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE DESIGNATED OFFICIALS HEREIN.

WHEREAS, cities are on the frontlines of the healthcare crisis with high rates of uninsurance and escalating costs affecting residents, businesses, and workers; and

WHEREAS, city governments spend billions of dollars to provide health coverage to millions of employees, dependents, and retirees; and

WHEREAS, rising health costs affect cities' ability to provide other city services; and

WHEREAS, cities face serious health workforce shortages, particularly among primary care professionals in low-income communities; and

WHEREAS, many families and individuals served by city programs have unmet health and mental health needs, complicating city efforts to provide effective services; and

WHEREAS, city public health agencies receive limited federal and state support despite the cost-effectiveness of public health strategies in preventing and addressing chronic diseases; and

WHEREAS, nearly forty-six (46) million Americans lack health insurance and are less likely than their insured counterparts to receive recommended preventive screening services or 26 medicines and

treatments that meet the professional standard, thus are more likely to die prematurely; and

WHEREAS, nearly nine (9) million children lack health insurance coverage and have fewer well-child visits, worse access to specialists, fewer immunizations, and more visits to the emergency room than children with health coverage; and

WHEREAS, millions of Americans are underinsured and at risk of financial ruin, if they experience a major illness; and

WHEREAS, health care costs, and employment-based health insurance premiums in particular, have increased at rates much higher than inflation or wage growth for the last decade; and

WHEREAS, health costs threaten the global competitiveness of American businesses; and

WHEREAS, our current health care system focuses on treating disease rather than preventing it or promoting wellness; and

WHEREAS, there are large disparities in health outcomes based on race, ethnicity, and physical ability, and many health care providers do not offer adequate service to patients with limited English proficiency or limited physical or mental ability; and

WHEREAS, chronic diseases pose the greatest challenge to our health care system, and our health care delivery system is not well-organized to prevent and treat them; and

WHEREAS, public hospitals and clinics, community health centers, and other safety net providers provide care to millions of underserved individuals regardless of income, health coverage, or immigration status; and

WHEREAS, many cities have developed innovative programs to expand access to quality health care, make health services more affordable, and improve health care quality, while acknowledging that any comprehensive reform must be led by the federal government; and

WHEREAS, leaders in both political parties serving in Congress and the White House have called for enactment of comprehensive health care reform; and

WHEREAS, the President has pledged enactment of comprehensive reform this year, and substantial progress is being made in Congress to engage stakeholders and craft comprehensive reform; and

WHEREAS, Mayors, as representatives of their citizens, as employers, as health care providers and as partners to small and large businesses who struggle with health care costs, should have their voices heard in the crafting of comprehensive reform proposals;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI, FLORIDA:

Section 1. The recitals and findings contained in the Preamble to this Resolution are adopted by reference and incorporated as if fully set forth in this Section.

Section 2. The Miami City Commission supports and calls for immediate enactment of the Administration's Health Care Reform Principles and agrees this comprehensive reform should do the following: 1) reduce long-term growth of health care costs for businesses and government; 2) protect families from bankruptcy or debt because of health care costs; 3) guarantee choice of doctors and health plans; 4) invest in prevention and wellness; 5) improve patient safety and quality of care; 6) assure affordable, quality health coverage for all Americans; 7) maintain coverage when someone changes or loses a job; and 8) end barriers to coverage for people with pre-existing medical conditions.

Section 3. The Miami City Commission further urges Congress to support public hospitals and other providers in the health care safety net so that those who fall through the cracks of expanded health coverage: may still receive care; capacity is available in case of public health emergencies; and the cultural competencies achieved by providers serving diverse populations are preserved and enhanced in a reformed care system.

Section 4. The City Clerk is directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to President Obama and the members of Congress.

Section 5. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption and signature of the Mayor.{1}

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND CORRECTNESS:

JULIE O. BRU 
CITY ATTORNEY

Footnotes:

{1} If the Mayor does not sign this Resolution, it shall become effective at the end of ten calendar days from the date it was passed and adopted. If the Mayor vetoes this Resolution, it shall become effective immediately upon override of the veto by the City Commission.

