

BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK
NO. 7-21-173

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE MEDICARE FOR ALL ACT OF 2019 AND, SPECIFIC TO THE
PANDEMIC, THE HEALTHCARE EMERGENCY GUARANTEE ACT OF 2020

RESOLUTION: Health and Human Services Committee

WHEREAS, every person in Highland Park, Middlesex County, deserves high quality health care and everyone's health is at risk when our neighbors cannot receive care; and

WHEREAS, before the Covid-19 pandemic, the number of Americans without health insurance was nearly 30 million with about 50 million Americans underinsured, the pandemic will greatly increase these numbers; e.g., up to 45 million additional people will lose job-related health insurance, with the impacts most severe on our black and brown neighbors; and

WHEREAS, without new strategies, the never-ending rising costs of health care further challenge our already strapped municipal budget and our small businesses that keep our communities thriving; and

WHEREAS, recent polls show that a growing majority of Americans support Medicare-for-All; cities/town approving Medicare for All Resolutions include: Los Angeles (CA), South Bend (IN), Ann Arbor (MI), Knoxville (TN), New Orleans (LA), Putnam (CT), Hanover (NH); Essex County (NJ); Maplewood (NJ); and Red Bank (NJ); and

WHEREAS, the Senate Medicare for All Act of 2019 and the House Medicare for All Act of 2021 would provide national health insurance for every person in the United States for all necessary medical care including diagnostic (e.g., virus) testing; prescription drugs; hospital, surgical and outpatient services; primary and preventive care; emergency services; women's reproductive care; dental and vision care; and long-term care; and

WHEREAS, the Senate Medicare for All Act of 2019 and the House Medicare for All Act of 2021 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, the Senate Medicare for All Act of 2019 and the House Medicare for All Act of 2021 would save millions in taxpayer dollars now spent on premiums that provide often inadequate health insurance coverage for government employees; and

WHEREAS, the Healthcare Emergency Guarantee Act of 2020 will cover, through Medicare, the costs of Covid-19 related treatment for uninsured Americans as well as all out-of-pocket costs for those with private or public insurance throughout the duration of the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the quality of life for the residents of Highland Park, Middlesex County, will vastly improve because everyone would be able to get preventative and ongoing care, when they need it to keep themselves and their neighbors healthy and avoid further burdening local resources;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Highland Park Borough Council enthusiastically supports the (Improved) Medicare for All Act(s) of 2019 and 2021 (S.1129 and H.R. 1976) and the Healthcare Emergency Guarantee Act(s) of 2020 (H.R. 6906 and S.3790) and calls on our federal legislators to work toward their immediate enactment, assuring appropriate and efficient health care for all residents of the United States.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we, the Highland Park Borough Council, acknowledge the following:

- The Covid-19 pandemic has shown the importance of making high-quality healthcare available to everyone; our existing system leaves out too many people of color and those with limited resources; and
- Millions who have no insurance or insurance with high out-of-pocket costs, face the possibility that a major illness would lead to financial ruin; medical illness and bills contribute to two-thirds of all bankruptcies; and

- Managed care and other market-based reforms have failed to contain health care costs, which threaten the international competitiveness of U.S. businesses; and
- The existence of thousands of public and private insurance providers and regulators has resulted in extraordinarily complex (and unsustainable) health care business procedures that consume almost one-third of our nation’s expenditures for health care; and
- Administrative waste stemming from our reliance on private insurers consumes one-third of private health spending while the single-payer Medicare system has administration costs of less than 5 percent; and
- Rationing health care according to ability to pay has diminished the overall health of our citizens to the point that the United States ranks last among industrialized nations in health outcomes and as many as 30,000 people in the United States die each year due to inadequate health care; and
- Numerous academic studies have concluded that the administrative savings under a single-payer, (Improved) Medicare for All system would be enough to cover the currently uninsured and improve coverage for all those who now have only partial coverage; and
 - Entrusting care to profit-oriented firms diverts billions of dollars to outrageous incomes for CEOs and threatens the quality of care; and
 - The failure to provide affordable and appropriate preventative health care services places unnecessary and more costly demands upon Red Bank emergency health care services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Highland Park Borough encourages all of our residents to their Members of Congress and U.S. Senators and encourage them to co-sponsor this critical legislation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to U.S. Senator Robert Menendez; U.S. Senator Cory Booker; Congressman Frank Pallone, representative of NJ’s sixth Congressional District; NJ Senator Patrick Diegnan, representative of NJ’s 18th Legislative District, Assemblyman Sterley Stanley, representative of NJ’s 18th Legislative District; Assemblyman Robert Karabinchak, representative of New Jersey’s 18th Legislative District; NJ Governor Philip Murphy; and the Middlesex County New Jersey Board of Commissioners.

ADOPTED: July 6, 2021
ATTEST:

Joan Hullings, BOROUGH CLERK

I, Joan Hullings, Borough Clerk of the Borough of Highland Park, New Jersey, do hereby certify the above to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Borough Council of said Borough on the 6th day of July, 2021.

Joan Hullings, Borough Clerk

RECORD OF COUNCIL VOTES

Council Member	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Canavera				
Foster				
George				
Hale				
Hersh				
Kim-Chohan				