

**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL  
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

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**Meeting Date:** 10/17/2000

**Reference No.:** CR-50-2000

**Proposer:** Shapiro

**Draft No.:** 2

**Sponsors:** Shapiro

**Item Title:** A Resolution endorsing a comprehensive health care system for all Marylanders

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**Drafter:** Ralph E. Grutzmacher  
Legislative Officer

**Resource Personnel:** Cheryl Harrington  
Legislative Aide

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**LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:**

**Date Presented:** \_\_/\_\_/\_\_

**Executive Action:** \_\_/\_\_/\_\_

**Committee Referral:** 9/26/2000 HEHS

**Effective Date:** \_\_/\_\_/\_\_

**Committee Action:** 10/12/2000 FAV(A)

**Date Introduced:** 9/26/2000

**Public Hearing:** \_\_/\_\_/\_\_ \_\_:\_\_ \_\_

**Council Action:** 10/17/2000 ADOPTED

**Council Votes:** DB:A, JE:A, IG:A, TH:A, WM:A, RVR:A, AS:A, PS:A, MW:-

**Pass/Fail:** P

**Remarks:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**

DATE: 10/12/00

Committee Vote: Favorable with amendments, 3-0-1 (In favor: Council Members Scott, Bailey and Russell); (Abstained: Council Member Gourdine).

Staff summarized the legislation indicating that the Council joins the Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative Education Fund in endorsing the concept of a comprehensive health care system for all Marylanders.

Council Member Peter Shapiro, the sponsor, explained that endorsing the principals of a comprehensive health care system is to guarantee quality and affordable health care for all Marylanders. Council Member Shapiro further explained that the Council's endorsement of a comprehensive health care system is an avenue to get the state to seriously consider problems with our current health care system.

Mr. Vincent DeMarco, and Mr. Ernie Crofoot, representing Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative, spoke in support of the legislation. Mr. DeMarco addressed the Committee explaining that this is a three-year campaign to educate the public about the problems with our current health care system. It is anticipated that a proposal shall be submitted to the state legislature in 2002. Mr. DeMarco also explained that the number of uninsured and under insured Marylanders keeps growing while those with health insurance find it harder to get quality care. Mr. DeMarco provided written comments on Prince George's County residents polled on comprehensive reform. He also provided a copy of the Declaration of Health Care Independence signers. Mr. DeMarco noted that the signers of this Declaration reserve the right to review proposals to implement the Declaration before endorsing such proposals and suggested that the resolution should be amended to include this language. This language is reflected in CR-50-2000 (DR-2).

Council Member Scott expressed concern with uncompensated and indigent care at hospitals and what would be the impact with the new health care proposal. Mr. Crofoot indicated that they have met with the Hospital Association and is willing to meet their needs. He also explained that the impact should be minimal under the proposed program, because more patients will be utilizing their private physicians instead of the emergency room for medical treatment.

The Legislative Officer and the Office of Law finds it to be in proper legislative form. The Office of Law recommended that for clarification, as a County Council initiative, this language should be amended to read the Prince George's "County Council" endorses a comprehensive health care system instead of "County Government". The County Executive takes no official position on CR-50-2000.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION/FISCAL IMPACT**

**(Includes reason for proposal, as well as any unique statutory requirements)**

## **CODE INDEX TOPICS:**