

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2017 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-7-2017

Proposed by Council Member Franklin

Introduced by Council Members Franklin, Lehman, Turner, Glaros, Taveras,
Toles, Harrison and Patterson

Co-Sponsors Council Member Davis

Date of Introduction February 21, 2017

RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

3 For the purpose of expressing the County Council’s strong support for protecting access to
4 quality, affordable health care provided to millions of Americans and thousands of Prince
5 George’s County residents by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

6 WHEREAS, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, commonly called the
7 Affordable Care Act (“ACA”), or “Obamacare,” one of then-President Barack Obama’s
8 centerpiece initiatives, was adopted in 2010 to dramatically reduce the number of uninsured
9 Americans and improve overall public health for the American people; and

10 WHEREAS, the ACA protects our working families against health insurance discrimination
11 and denial for pre-existing conditions, provides subsidies to working families to offset the cost of
12 health insurance, incentivizes states to expand Medicaid coverage for the working poor, and
13 requires coverage of basic family health care needs in health insurance plans; and

14 WHEREAS, because of the ACA, more than 400,000 Marylanders have gained health
15 insurance coverage over the past six (6) years and the cost of uncompensated care in Maryland
16 was reduced by \$311 million between 2013 and 2015; and

17 WHEREAS, the ACA currently benefits approximately 200,000 Prince George’s County
18 residents; and

19 WHEREAS, the ACA, over the last six (6) years, has cut the overall uninsured rate in the
20 United States from 15.7% to 8.6% and, among those ages 18-64, from 22.3% to 11.9%,
21 including reducing the number of uninsured residents in Prince George’s County by 50% in just

1 the last three (3) years; and

2 WHEREAS, a 2012 Families USA study shows that more than 130,000 Americans died
3 between 2005 and 2010 because of their lack of health insurance; and

4 WHEREAS, the high amount of uncompensated care in the County and the region has been a
5 significant factor in the past financial challenges of Prince George’s Hospital Center and
6 Dimensions Healthcare System; and

7 WHEREAS, the Maryland Health Care Commission has approved plans by the University of
8 Maryland Medical System and Dimensions Healthcare System, in partnership with the County
9 and the State, to build a state-of-the-art Regional Medical Center (“UMMS Prince George’s
10 County Regional Medical Center”) in Prince George’s County, which will replace Prince
11 George’s Hospital Center and rebrand and significantly improve health care in the County and
12 the region, while helping foster over \$3 billion in economic activity; and

13 WHEREAS, a significant increase in the uninsured rate and amount of uncompensated care
14 in the County and the region due to the loss of health insurance coverage for working families
15 because of any repeal of the ACA could undermine the “patient mix” of UMMS Prince George’s
16 County Regional Medical Center, potentially reducing the financial success of the facility and
17 diminishing the quality of life of our residents; and

18 WHEREAS, the Congressional Budget Office recently estimated that the repeal of the
19 ACA’s health care subsidies, individual mandate, and Medicaid expansion, without replacement,
20 would increase the number of Americans who are uninsured by 32 million by 2026; and

21 WHEREAS, U.S. President Donald J. Trump and Republicans in the U.S. Congress have
22 taken initial steps to repeal the ACA without first providing a better alternative for quality,
23 affordable health care coverage to the working families of America and Prince George’s County,
24 endangering coverage for millions of Americans and creating widespread uncertainty in the
25 economy; and

26 WHEREAS, the County Council, which also sits as the County Board of Health, believes
27 that access to quality, affordable health care is a right, not a privilege, and is essential to the
28 quality of life of working families everywhere; and

29 WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of our federal, state and local officials to defend the
30 issues and interests of their constituents, including advocating for access to quality, affordable
31 health care coverage provided in the ACA; and

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's
2 County, Maryland, that the County Council vigorously opposes the repeal of the Affordable Care
3 Act and replacing it with an alternative that would not improve access to quality, affordable
4 health care for all of our residents.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Council opposes any measure that (i) results
6 in a loss of health insurance coverage by any American, (ii) weakens the ACA's protection
7 against health insurance discrimination or denial based on preexisting conditions, (iii) reduces
8 the ACA's subsidies to individuals for buying health care, or (iv) reduces the incentives for states
9 to cover individuals through expanding Medicaid.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Council calls on Maryland Governor Larry
11 Hogan to utilize his unique position as a Republican Governor to formally and persistently urge
12 President Trump and Republican Members of the U.S. Congress to (i) protect the health care of
13 Maryland residents enrolled in health coverage due to the Affordable Care Act and (ii) not repeal
14 the ACA without adopting an alternative that improves access to quality, affordable health care
15 for Maryland families, especially the working poor.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Council urges the Maryland Congressional
17 Delegation, Maryland General Assembly, and members of the general public to oppose and resist
18 any weakening of the protections of the Affordable Care Act for working families.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be expeditiously sent to the
20 President of the United States, U.S. Speaker of the House, U.S. Senate Majority Leader, U.S.
21 House Minority Leader, U.S. Senate Minority Leader, Maryland Congressional Delegation,
22 Governor of Maryland, President of the Maryland Senate, and Speaker of the Maryland House.

Adopted this 28th day of February, 2017.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Derrick L. Davis
Chairman

ATTEST:

Redis C. Floyd
Clerk of the Council