

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date: 9/16/2003

Reference No.: CR-45-2003

Proposer: Shapiro

Draft No.: 1

Sponsors: Shapiro, Dean, Exum, Knotts, Harrington, Peters

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

Drafter: Ralph E. Grutzmacher
Legislative Officer

Resource Cheryl C. Harrington
Personnel: Legislative Aide

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

Date Presented: __/__/__

Executive Action: __/__/__

Committee Referral: 7/22/2003 HEHS

Effective Date: __/__/__

Committee Action: 7/24/2003 FAV

Date Introduced: 7/22/2003

Public Hearing: __/__/__ __:__ __

Council Action: 9/16/2003 ADOPTED

Council Votes: PS:A, MB:A, SHD:A, TD:A, CE:A, DCH:A; TH:A, TK:A, DP:A

Pass/Fail: P

Remarks: _____

HEALTH, EDUCATION & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

DATE: 7/24/2003

Committee Vote: Favorable, 4-0 (In favor: Council Members Hendershot, Dean, Harrington and Shapiro)

Committee staff summarized the purpose of the resolution and the referral comments that were received. The Council endorses a comprehensive health care system for all Marylanders.

Mr. Vincent DeMarco and Mr. Ernie Crofoot, representing Maryland Citizens' Health Initiatives, spoke in support of the legislation. Mr. DeMarco addressed the Committee explaining that more than 6000,000 Marylanders have no health care coverage at all and more than 200,000 seniors on Medicare who have no prescription drug coverage. Over the past four years, the Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative, a coalition of hundreds of religious, community, labor, business and health care groups from across the state, has worked hard to answer the how to accomplish this

task. Mr. DeMarco further stated that an economically sound and politically viable plan to meet the health care needs of Marylanders has been put together. More than 500 organizations across the state have endorsed the plan. The plan has two essential principles: everyone in the state should have quality, affordable health care, and everyone should pay their fair share of the cost. These goals would be accomplished through a public-private partnership that would build upon the private insurance system now in place.

The Legislative Officer finds it to be in proper legislative form.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION/FISCAL IMPACT

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

CODE INDEX TOPICS: