



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Chairman
Derrick Leon Davis
Council Member, District 6

MAR 1 2017

The Hon. Joan Carter Conway, Chair
Senate Education, Health, and Env. Affairs
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Hon. Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair
House Health, and Government Operations
241 Lowe House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: SJ 7 – The Protection of the Federal Affordable Care Act /HJ 9 – The Protection of the Federal Affordable Care Act – **SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Conway & Delegate Pendergrass:

The Prince George's County Council has considered the above captioned Joint Resolutions and offers its strong support.

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, commonly referred to as the Affordable Care Act (ACA), or Obamacare, is one of the most significant healthcare reform laws to ever be adopted in this Country. Signed into law on March 23, 2010 by President Barack Obama, and upheld by the Supreme Court on June 28, 2012, the ACA has provided millions of Americans with health insurance coverage. In Maryland alone, the positive impact on our citizens is undeniable, as the facts speak for themselves.

Currently, more than 430,000 Marylanders are covered under the ACA; and, the cost of uncompensated care in Maryland was reduced by \$311 million between 2013 and 2015. Over the last 6 years the overall uninsured rate in the United States has been reduced from 15.7 to 8.6%; and, among those ages 18-64 from 22.3% to 11.9% - including reducing the number of uninsured residents in Prince George's County by 50% in the last 3 years.

Aside from these facts, perhaps even more important are the benefits which cannot truly be measured, like the impact preventive services covered under the ACA have had on our citizens. Cancer screening, flu shots, immunization vaccines, depression screening, and alcohol counseling, are only a few of the immeasurable life-saving services that have benefitted countless Americans over the past few years. To threaten any such protections which are currently afforded under the ACA is unconscionable, and must be forcefully opposed.

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Lastly, we believe that the ACA is a critical linchpin for the construction of the new Prince George's Regional Medical Center. Without the protections offered under the ACA, the number of uninsured patients will most certainly increase, thereby negatively impacting our ability to provide much needed and deserved quality healthcare access for our residents.

As a Council, we thank you for your courage, leadership and prompt attention to this very critical issue. We join you as you fight to protect provisions of the law that ensure all Marylanders have access to affordable health insurance coverage that is free from discriminatory rates and policies.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D L Davis', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Derrick L. Davis
Chair

cc:

The Honorable David Moon, District 20

The Honorable Jim Rosapepe, District 21

The Honorable Jay Walker, District 26

The Honorable Rushern L. Baker, III, Prince George's County Executive