

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2010 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-12-2010

Proposed by Council Member Dean

Introduced by Council Members Dean, Turner, Bland, Harrison, Olson,
Dernoga, and Campos

Date of Introduction February 16, 2010

RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 Health Care

3 For the purpose of expressing the County Council’s support for the findings and potential next
4 steps articulated in the Assessing Health and Health Care in Prince George’s County RAND
5 Health Report.

6 WHEREAS, the quality of life in our nation is compromised by health care disparities
7 which are more prevalent in Prince George’s County due to the disproportionate presence of
8 chronic disease coupled with the unavailability of access to quality health care services;

9 WHEREAS, the number of Prince George’s County residents suffering from chronic
10 conditions such as diabetes, asthma, and obesity significantly outpace neighboring jurisdictions;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, approximately 80,000 adult residents of Prince George’s County are medically
13 uninsured; and

14 WHEREAS, Prince George’s County has less than half the number of primary health care
15 physicians per capita compared with Montgomery County, Howard County, Baltimore County,
16 and the District of Columbia; and

17 WHEREAS, hospital capacity in Prince George’s County has kept pace with population
18 numbers yet the County has a relatively low per capita supply of medical/surgical, obstetric,
19 pediatric services, and psychiatric beds; and

20 WHEREAS, the Prince George’s County Council sought a clearer understanding of these
21 health care challenges and commissioned a study by the RAND Health division of the RAND
22 corporation to analyze the County’s health care needs and its current capacity to meet these

1 health care demands; and

2 WHEREAS, beginning in 2008 RAND Health evaluated the demographic and health care
3 characteristics of Prince George’s County residents; the health care system access and capacity;
4 and patterns of hospital and emergency department use; and

5 WHEREAS, in February 2009 RAND Health representatives presented its final report and
6 summary titled “Assessing Health and Health Care in Prince George’s County RAND Health
7 Report” (hereinafter referred to as “the RAND Report”) to the Prince George’s County Council
8 meeting as the Board of Health; and

9 WHEREAS, the RAND Report contained a number of findings and action steps to improve
10 the overall quality of health and health care services in Prince George’s County; and

11 WHEREAS, the RAND report found that high rates of out-of-County care, both
12 compensated and uncompensated, results in damaging economic consequences; and

13 WHEREAS, the RAND report found that there was a disproportionate availability of
14 primary care physicians in areas of the County; and

15 WHEREAS, the RAND report found that strengthening the Prince George’s County
16 ambulatory care safety net is an urgent concern; and

17 WHEREAS, the RAND Report found that there is only one federally qualified health center
18 (FQHC) in Prince George’s County to meet the needs of the 80,000 uninsured Prince George’s
19 County residents; and

20 WHEREAS, the RAND report found that the absence of a safety net threatens to perpetuate
21 health care disparities and lead to greater preventable use of care in expensive hospital settings;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, the RAND Report identified large disparities within the County that combined
24 with low primary care capacity amplifies the critical need for the establishment of a primary care
25 safety net; and

26 WHEREAS, the County Council as the Board of Health is authorized to enact laws for the
27 protection and promotion of public health; and

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's
29 County, Maryland, that County Council recognizes the shared responsibility with the State of
30 Maryland to provide access to quality health care services in the County; and

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's

1 County, Maryland, that Prince George’s County Council is supportive of providing access to
2 quality health care services in the County by providing a world class health care system offering
3 superior health care and emergency service to the citizens and residents of Prince George’s
4 County and the greater Maryland community; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Prince George’s County Council hereby supports
6 the RAND Health findings stated above and published in detail in the RAND Report as a
7 measure to improve access to and the overall condition of health care in Prince George’s County.

Adopted this 6th day of April, 2010.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Thomas E. Dernoga
Chair

ATTEST:

Redis C. Floyd
Clerk of the Council