

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND**

**2000 Legislative Session**

Resolution No. CR-50-2000

Proposed by Council Member Shapiro

Introduced by Council Member Shapiro

Co-Sponsors \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Introduction September 26, 2000

**RESOLUTION**

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 Health Care Insurance

3 For the purpose of endorsing a comprehensive health care system for all Marylanders.

4 WHEREAS, Over 835,000 Marylanders, including over 100,000 children, have no health  
5 insurance and equal numbers of Marylanders have inadequate health coverage; and

6 WHEREAS, Most Marylanders without health insurance are workers and their families,  
7 and the number of the working uninsured is expected to increase significantly over the next  
8 decade; and

9 WHEREAS, The present health care insurance system is increasingly unresponsive to  
10 health needs and has taken important medical decisions away from health care professionals and  
11 patients and placed them into the hands of insurance company administrators; and

12 WHEREAS, The present health care insurance system is increasingly bureaucratic and  
13 wastefully expensive, with a significant proportion of our health care dollars going to insurance  
14 company profits and to corporate overhead and administrative costs, including high salaries,  
15 lobbying expenses, marketing, and multiple and needlessly complex claims processing  
16 procedures; and

17 WHEREAS, With the projection of double-digit annual percent increases in health  
18 premiums, managed care has not proven itself to be the cure for escalating health costs; and

19 WHEREAS, Marylanders strongly support significant change in the health care system;  
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Narrowly targeted reforms would not fundamentally change a structurally-  
22 flawed system.

1        NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's  
2 County, Maryland, that the Prince George's County Council joins the Maryland Citizens' Health  
3 Initiative Education Fund in endorsing a comprehensive health care system that would guarantee  
4 quality health care for all Marylanders, be administered by and financed through an independent  
5 agency governed by health professionals and consumers, and guarantee for all Marylanders:

6        1. Access to affordable, quality health care without regard to income, employment, or  
7 health status.

8        2. Freedom to choose their doctors and other health professionals.

9        3. A comprehensive, age-specific, quality health benefits package.

10       4. Access to health care providers who practice according to professional standards,  
11 without undue interference from third party decision-makers.

12       5. A health care system that will achieve overall cost savings by streamlining health care  
13 financing, improving efficiency, expanding preventive care, and reducing overhead and  
14 unnecessary insurance company profits.

15       THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Council reserve the right to  
16 review proposals to implement the Declaration before endorsing such proposals.

Adopted this 17th day of October, 2000.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE  
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dorothy F. Bailey  
Chair

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joyce T. Sweeney  
Clerk of the Council