

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORT

2021 Legislative Session

Reference No.: CR-027-2021

Draft No.: 2

Committee: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Date: 4/20/2021

Action: FAV(A)

REPORT: Favorable as amended, 10-0-1: Council Members Hawkins, Anderson-Walker, Davis, Franklin, Glaros, Harrison, Ivey, Streeter, Taveras, and Turner. Abstained: Dernoga

The Prince George's County Council convened as the Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, March 16, 2021, and Tuesday, April 20, 2021, to consider CR-027-2021, a Resolution concerning Medicare for All to support federal legislation that expands healthcare for all Americans. Implementation of improved Medicare for All is expected to save taxpayers considerable sums on healthcare costs simultaneously, create jobs in public healthcare administration, expand opportunities for students to attend medical and dental school, and save tens of thousands of lives every year.

The Medicare for All Act of 2021 is the federal legislation that CR-027-2021 would support. The House Resolution establishes a national health insurance program administered by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The program will guarantee that all U.S. residents, including those in Prince George's County, will be fully covered for all necessary medical care, including hospital, surgical, and outpatient services; primary and preventive care; emergency services, dental and vision care, long-term care, and reproductive services.

Council Member Taveras expressed the significance of eliminating the County's current costs and encouraging sustainable healthcare for the local health system. She offered amendments that broaden the impact of the Affordable Care Act and the Medicare for All Act. Page one, line 2 amended the title to Universal Healthcare for All. Language on page 2, line 6, was added that states, all of this is in line with the recommendations of the 2020 Rand Report to the County. Page 3, line 1, strikes the current language and adds, "Whereas the implementation of the Affordable Care and Medicare for All Act would simultaneously save taxpayers, including communities of color and socio-economic challenged residents, considerable sums on healthcare costs; create a great number of jobs in public healthcare administration; expand opportunities students to attend medical and dental school; and save tens of thousands of lives every year ." Page 3, line 5, strikes the current language and adds, "NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's County, Maryland that the Prince George's County Council supports universal health care for all, including expansion of the Affordable Care Act and the Medicare for All Act, a Federal bill that seeks to guarantee comprehensive healthcare to all US residents and calls upon our Congressional delegation to work towards its immediate enactment."

Statements of support were expressed and received from The Commission for Health, LLC., Mary's Center, Amalgamated Transit Union, Local 689, Our Revolution, National Nurses United, Community Forklift, and The Prince George's County Peace and Justice Coalition.

Ms. Terry Bell, Council Liaison, Office of the County Executive, expressed the County Executive's support.

There is no fiscal note on this legislation. However, as noted in CR-027-2021, Prince George's County currently spends \$62 million per year on retiree healthcare expenses. This legislation would eliminate that cost and save taxpayers and businesses millions of dollars in rising healthcare expenses.

After discussion, the Prince George's County Council, sitting as the Committee of the Whole, voted CR-027-2021 out favorably with amendments. 10-0-1.

George's County Council, sitting as the Committee of the Whole, voted CR-027-2021 out favorably with amendments. 10-0-1.