

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2021 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-27-2021

Proposed by Council Members Taveras, Dernoga and Ivey

Introduced by Council Members Taveras, Dernoga, Ivey, Hawkins, Anderson-Walker,
Harrison and Streeter

Date of Introduction March 16, 2021

RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 Universal Healthcare for All

3 For the purpose of supporting federal legislation that expands healthcare for all Americans.

4 WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has worsened the racial disparities in healthcare,
5 jobs, and housing in Prince George’s County, a majority Black County with a significant Latino
6 population; and

7 WHEREAS, Prince George’s County has suffered the highest rate of COVID-19
8 infections (65,562 as of January 24, 2021) and deaths (1,178 as of January 24, 2021) - the
9 highest rates of any County in Maryland; and

10 WHEREAS, the primary purpose for universal healthcare should be the delivery of
11 quality care to all human beings for the entirety of a lifetime without regard to social or
12 economic status; and

13 WHEREAS, despite significant improvements brought about by the Affordable Care Act,
14 70 million Americans are uninsured or underinsured, including at least 113,000 Prince George’s
15 County residents; and

16 WHEREAS, Prince George’s County has the highest rate of uninsured or underinsured
17 residents in Maryland, with at least 25% of the population on public assistance who have
18 inadequate or difficult to access healthcare; and

19 WHEREAS, the estimated 12.5% uninsured Prince George’s residents include low wage
20 workers, part-time public employees, and employees of small businesses who have little access
21 to high-quality insurance; and

22

1 WHEREAS, Prince George’s County has high numbers of particularly vulnerable
2 populations such as children, individuals with severe mental illness, and re-entering populations
3 who are uninsured or underinsured; and

4 WHEREAS, County residents use hospital emergency services for non-emergency care
5 because of lack of access to primary care, particularly for preventable conditions such as asthma,
6 and for mental and behavioral health services, all of this is in line with the recommendations
7 within the 2020 RAND Report to the County; and

8 WHEREAS, the coronavirus pandemic has revealed the deep fissures of an employment-
9 based health care system when Prince George’s County employees, businesses, and residents are
10 most in need of healthcare; and

11 WHEREAS, an Improved Medicare for All would encourage new entrepreneurs and
12 strengthen existing small businesses by significantly decreasing overhead healthcare expenses;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Prince George’s County currently spends \$62 million on employee and
15 retiree healthcare expenses annually, an Improved Medicare for All plan would save taxpayers,
16 businesses and local governments millions of dollars each year in rising healthcare expenses; and

17 WHEREAS, a Medicare for All system would reduce County spending on healthcare and
18 enable local governments across our state to invest additional dollars into education,
19 environmental protection, housing assistance, and other critical services; and

20 WHEREAS, the future health and well-being of the residents of Prince George’s County,
21 Maryland is at a critical crossroads as the population grows, ages, and diversifies over the next
22 decade, and significant national support from the Federal government will be required to meet
23 the healthcare needs of the County; and

24 WHEREAS, the Medicare for All Act of 2021 will guarantee that all US residents,
25 including those in Prince George’s County will be fully covered for all necessary medical care
26 including hospital, surgical, and outpatient services; primary and preventive care; emergency
27 services, dental and vision care, long-term care, and reproductive services; and

28 WHEREAS, the Medicare for All Act of 2021 will provide coverage with no extra costs
29 to consumers, including deductibles and co-pays, would assure free choice of doctors and other
30 providers, protect the doctor-patient relationship, and streamline administrative costs
31 significantly; and

1 WHEREAS, the implementation of the improved Affordable Care Act and the Medicare
2 For All would simultaneously save taxpayers, including communities of color and socio-
3 economic challenged residents, considerable sums on healthcare costs; create a great number of
4 jobs in public healthcare administration; expand opportunities for students to attend medical and
5 dental school; and saves tens of thousands of lives every year.

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the County Council of Prince George’s
7 County, Maryland that the Prince George’s County Council supports universal health care for all,
8 including expansion of the Affordable Care Act and the Medicare for All Act, a Federal bill that
9 seeks to guarantee comprehensive healthcare to all US residents and calls upon our
10 Congressional delegation to work towards its immediate enactment.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the County Council of Prince George’s County,
12 Maryland that the Prince George’s County Council also supports the Maryland Commission on
13 Universal Health Care Act and calls upon our state legislators to pass this bill in 2021.

Adopted this 4th day of May, 2021.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Calvin S. Hawkins, II
Chair

ATTEST:

Donna J. Brown
Clerk of the Council