

**CITY OF HOMESTEAD, FLORIDA**

**RESOLUTION NO. R2015-05-56**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF HOMESTEAD, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING MEDICAID EXPANSION IN FLORIDA PURSUANT TO THE PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT OF 2010, URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO ENACT LEGISLATION EXPANDING MEDICAID IN FLORIDA; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, Medicaid expansion would provide nearly one million Florida residents access to preventive and therapeutic health care services, improving health outcomes; and

**WHEREAS**, expanding Medicaid in Florida under the Affordable Care Act is made all the more important by the fact that medical care providers will experience significant payment reductions from Medicare and Medicaid over the next several years because of federal reductions in the Disproportionate Share Hospital Program and Low-Income Pool Program; and

**WHEREAS**, the financial impact of not expanding Medicaid would be felt at many Miami-Dade hospitals; and

**WHEREAS**, the Baptist Hospital system, including Homestead Hospital, could lose as much as \$20 million a year in federal funding; and

**WHEREAS**, Larkin Hospital in South Miami could lose several million dollars a year in federal funding; and

**WHEREAS**, Jackson Health System, including the Rosie Lee Wesley Health Center in South Miami, could lose \$570 million a year in federal funding; and

**WHEREAS**, other hospitals in Miami-Dade County, including the University of Miami Hospital, Mount Sinai Medical Center, and Children's Hospital, could lose as much as a combined \$200 million a year in federal funding; and

**WHEREAS**, if Medicaid is expanded, Florida would receive approximately \$5.2 billion in federal funding in 2016; and

**WHEREAS**, Florida is a donor state to the federal government that sends more money in tax revenue than it receives in benefits; and

**WHEREAS**, the 111th United States Congress passed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 ("Affordable Care Act") and on March 23, 2010, the President signed the bill into law; and

**WHEREAS**, one of the key components of the Affordable Care Act required states to expand Medicaid to the minimum national eligibility threshold of 138 percent of the federal poverty level effective January 1, 2014; and

**WHEREAS**, this provision, however, was not upheld by the United States Supreme Court, in effect allowing states the option of whether or not to expand Medicaid; and

**WHEREAS**, the expansion of Medicaid eligibility for adults was designed to serve as the vehicle for covering low-income individuals; and

**WHEREAS**, under the Affordable Care Act, the federal government initially funds Medicaid expansion at 100 percent for the first three years; and

**WHEREAS**, in Florida and other states, Medicaid had gaps in coverage for adults because eligibility was restricted to specific categories of low-income individuals, such as children, pregnant women, the elderly, or individuals with disabilities. In most states, including Florida, adults without dependent children were ineligible for Medicaid, regardless of their income, and income limits for parents were very low—often below half the poverty level; and

**WHEREAS**, enacting Medicaid expansion in Florida would fill the gap left by the United States Supreme Court ruling and ensure access to improved medical care benefits for many hard-working Floridians, including veterans, students, and working parents who are not otherwise eligible for Medicaid or insurance through the Affordable Care Act.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HOMESTEAD, FLORIDA:**

**Section 1. Recitals Adopted.** That the above stated recitals are hereby adopted and confirmed.

**Section 2. Support of Medicaid Expansion.**

- A. That the City Council hereby expresses its strong support for the expansion of Medicaid in the State of Florida.
- B. That the City Council respectfully urges the Florida Legislature to expeditiously pass legislation expanding Medicaid in Florida.

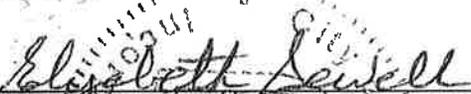
**Section 3. Implementation.** That the City Council hereby directs the City Clerk to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Honorable Florida Senate President, the Honorable Florida House Speaker, and all municipalities within Miami-Dade County.

**Section 4. Effective Date.** That this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption hereof.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 27<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2015.**

  
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JEFF PORTER  
Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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ELIZABETH SEWELL, MMC  
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY FOR  
THE USE AND RELIANCE OF THE CITY ONLY:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
WEISS SEROTA HELFMAN COLE & BIERMAN, P.L.  
City Attorney

Moved by:  
Seconded by:  
Council Vote:

Councilman Jon Burgess  
Vice Mayor Stephen Shelley  
4-0

Mayor Jeff Porter  
Vice Mayor Stephen Shelley  
Councilman Jon Burgess  
Councilwoman Patricia Fairclough  
Councilman Elvis Maldonado  
Councilwoman Judy Waldman  
Councilman Jimmie L. Williams, III

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YES  
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YES  
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YES  
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ABSENT  
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ABSENT  
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YES  
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ABSENT