

## **RESOLUTION NO. 04-21**

### **A RESOLUTION TO ENDORSE AND URGE THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PASS THE HEALTHCARE EMERGENCY GUARANTEE ACT OF 2020 (HR 6906, S 2790) AND THE MEDICARE FOR ALL ACT OF 2019 (HR 1384, S 1129), TO PROVIDE UNIVERSAL, COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH COVERAGE WITH ZERO COST-SHARING DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND BEYOND**

#### **WHEREAS:**

It is vital to the well-being and productivity of residents of West Lafayette to have quality healthcare.

Before the pandemic, it is estimated that more than twenty thousand residents of Tippecanoe County did not have any health insurance.

It is estimated that close to 2000 Tippecanoe County residents have lost their jobs due to the COVID-19 pandemic, increasing the number of residents without health insurance.

Many residents of West Lafayette, who do have health insurance, are underinsured resulting in medical expenses that exceed their ability to pay.

In West Lafayette, about 12% of children and about 21% of residents between the ages of 25 and 34 live below the federal poverty level, and people living in poverty must forgo needed healthcare because of inability to pay.

Over half the family bankruptcies in Indiana are caused by inability to pay for medical expenses.

Purdue University students often have difficulty paying for medical expenses, due to lack of health insurance, high out-of-network costs for students with out-of-state medical insurance, and requirement of payment at the time of service for some services at the Purdue University Student Health Service (PUSH).

In addition to most health insurance plans not covering dental care, many plans do not have adequate coverage of preventive, sexual and reproductive health, mental health and substance abuse treatment.

The COVID pandemic has underscored the importance of every person having healthcare, because many who get sick cannot afford care, continue to work while contagious, endanger their health and spread the disease to others.

There are great health disparities in Indiana, as in the rest of the United States, demonstrated by high rates of maternal and infant mortality among Black residents as well as their higher rates of illness and death from COVID-19 in that same population.

The Affordable Care Act and the Healthy Indiana Plan have improved access to healthcare but still leave millions of people, including thousands in our community, without adequate healthcare coverage.

In 2021, the City of West Lafayette is projected to spend \$2.8 million on health insurance for its employees, which is approximately 11% of the total City budget; it is expected that these costs will be substantially reduced in plans to fund Medicare for All.

The Healthcare Emergency Guarantee Act of 2020, proposed in the U.S. Congress, would ensure access to comprehensive healthcare services during the COVID-19 pandemic regardless of ability to pay.

The Medicare for All Act of 2019, proposed in the U.S. Congress, would establish a universal single-payer health care system that would provide healthcare for all residents of the United States, without fees, copays or deductibles, regardless of pre-existing conditions, and with free choice of healthcare providers.

The Medicare for All Act of 2019 provides a comprehensive healthcare plan that includes coverage of dental care, hearing and vision care, mental healthcare, substance abuse treatment, reproductive and maternity services, and prescription drugs.

The Medicare for All Act of 2019 would reduce overall healthcare costs by negotiating drug prices with manufactures and eliminating payments to insurance companies.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA,**

1. Supports the establishment of a comprehensive, universal, single-payer health care system, with zero cost-sharing, in the United States.
2. Will advocate for the passage of the Emergency Healthcare Guarantee Act of 2020 and the Medicare for All Act of 2019.
3. Will convey its support of these bills to the residents of Greater Lafayette and to the Indiana Congressional delegation.

INTRODUCED ON FIRST READING ON THE \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

MOTION TO ADOPT MADE BY COUNCILOR \_\_\_\_\_, AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR \_\_\_\_\_.

DULY RESOLVED, PASSED, AND ADOPTED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA, ON THE \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2021, HAVING BEEN PASSED BY A VOTE OF \_\_\_\_ IN FAVOR AND \_\_\_\_ OPPOSED, THE ROLL CALL VOTE BEING:

	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Blanco				
Bunder				
DeBoer				
Kang				
Leverenz				
Parker				
Sanders				
Thomas				
Wang				

\_\_\_\_\_  
Peter Bunder, Presiding Officer

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sana G. Booker, Clerk

PRESENTED BY ME TO THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA  
ON THE \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sana G. Booker, Clerk

THIS RESOLUTION APPROVED AND SIGNED BY ME ON THE \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF  
\_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

\_\_\_\_\_  
John R. Dennis, Mayor

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sana G. Booker, Clerk