

RESOLUTION

Supporting Medicare for All

WHEREAS, our society has a moral obligation to ensure health care for all its people; and

WHEREAS, eleven percent (257,000) of Chicagoans under the age of 65 have no health insurance;ⁱ and

WHEREAS, despite important gains made through the Affordable Care Act, 43% of working-age adults in the US were inadequately insured in 2023, including 9% who were uninsured, 12% who had a gap in coverage over the past year, and 23% whose coverage did not provide affordable access to health care;ⁱⁱ and

WHEREAS, the COVID pandemic underscored the weakness and inequality of the US for-profit health care: with under 5% of the world's population, the US suffered 16% of the world's COVID deaths;ⁱⁱⁱ millions in the US lost their employer sponsored insurance; and people of color in Chicago suffered disproportionately higher rates of infection and mortality—up to 80% higher; and

WHEREAS, the typical non-elderly family in the U.S. spends \$5,600 per year out of pocket on health care premiums, deductibles, co-pays, co-insurance and uncovered care, and federal and state taxes for health programs, placing a substantial financial burden on moderate-income households who do not qualify for Medicaid;^{iv} and

WHEREAS, many people delay seeking needed health care because they cannot afford the upfront costs, leading to a sicker and poorer population; and

WHEREAS, the ever-increasing costs of health care—including over six hundred million dollars annually to provide health insurance for City of Chicago employees—challenge our already strapped state and municipal budgets; and

WHEREAS, our complex and confusing for-profit health care financing system often results in Chicagoans receiving large, unexpected bills, calls from debt collectors, and in some cases bankruptcy; and

WHEREAS, US healthcare outcomes include glaring racial inequalities that are due in part to the system's unequal and complex access to care; however, in those parts of US healthcare where access is universal, such as Medicare, the VA, and dialysis, health care outcomes for people of color match and even exceed those of Whites; and

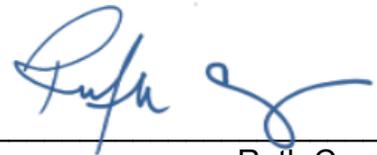
WHEREAS, the Medicare for All Act of 2025 (H.R. 3069/S. 1506) will provide national health insurance for every person living in the United States, covering all necessary primary, preventative and medical care; including hospital, surgical, and outpatient services, prescription drugs, mental health and substance abuse treatment; emergency services; reproductive care; dental, hearing and vision care; and long-term care; from birth to death; and

WHEREAS, the Medicare for All Act of 2025 will provide this care without co-pays, deductibles, or other out-of-pocket costs, and will eliminate most prior authorization delays, reduce bureaucracy, protect the doctor-patient relationship, and assure patients a free choice of providers and hospitals; and

WHEREAS, Medicare for All will guarantee that all Chicago and other US residents will be fully covered for health care anywhere in the United States, regardless of employment status, marital status, citizenship status, income, age, or geography; and

WHEREAS, recent polls show that two thirds of Americans support Medicare for All.^v Now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that we, the members of the Chicago City Council, enthusiastically support the Medicare for All Act of 2025 (H.R. 3069 and S. 1506) and call on our federal legislators to work toward its swift enactment to ensure equal access to high-quality health care for all who reside in the United States.



Ruth Cruz
Alderswoman, 30th Ward

ⁱ US Census, Quick Facts Chicago, IL.

ⁱⁱ The State of U.S. Health Insurance in 2024, The Commonwealth Fund, <https://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/surveys/2024/nov/state-health-insurance-coverage-us-2024-biennial-survey>

ⁱⁱⁱ Reported Cases and Deaths by Country or Territory, Worldometer, <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/#countries>

^{iv} KFF, <https://www.healthsystemtracker.org/household-health-spending-calculator/>

^v The Hill, Poll: 69 percent of voters support Medicare for All, 4/24/2020, <https://thehill.com/hilltv/what-americas-thinking/494602-poll-69-percent-of-voters-support-medicare-for-all/>