

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE MEDICARE FOR ALL ACT OF 2021
INTRODUCED IN THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON
MARCH 18, 2021 H.R. BILL (Bill number pending)**

WHEREAS, health insurance is a fundamental human right; and

WHEREAS, the Coronavirus pandemic has exposed the inequities of our current health care systems as they exist, prioritizing profits for companies over health care for those who cannot afford coverage; and

WHEREAS, nearly 15 million Americans have lost employer-based health care coverage as a direct result of job loss due to the Coronavirus pandemic; and

WHEREAS, over 100,000 New Jerseyans have lost employer-based health insurance coverage as a direct result of job loss due to the Coronavirus pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Coronavirus pandemic has exposed the many weaknesses of a health care system tied directly to employment; and

WHEREAS, the number of Americans without health insurance pre-pandemic was nearly 30 million, while more than 40 million Americans remain underinsured, despite important gains made since the implementation of the Affordable Care Act; and

WHEREAS, every person in West Orange deserves high quality health care; and

WHEREAS, the never-ending rising costs of health care add challenges to our already strapped municipal budget and our small businesses, which keep our communities thriving; and

WHEREAS, the Medicare for All Act of 2021 would provide national health insurance for every person in the United States for all necessary medical care including prescription drugs; hospital, surgical and outpatient services; primary and preventive care; emergency services; reproductive care; dental and vision care; and long-term care; and

WHEREAS, recent polls show the majority of Americans support Medicare for All; and

WHEREAS, the Medicare for All Act of 2021 will guarantee that all residents of West Orange will be fully covered for health care without copays, deductibles or other out of pocket costs, and would save millions in taxpayer dollars now spent on premiums that provide often inadequate health insurance coverage for government employees; and

WHEREAS, the quality of life for the residents of West Orange will vastly improve because they will be able to get the ongoing care they need, instead of waiting until they have a medical emergency that could upend their lives as well as further burden local resources; and

WHEREAS, millions with insurance have coverage so inadequate that a major illness would lead to financial ruin, and medical illness and bills contribute to two-thirds of all bankruptcies; and

WHEREAS, managed care and other market-based reforms have failed to contain health care costs, which threaten the international competitiveness of U.S. businesses; and

WHEREAS, the existence of thousands of public and private insurance providers and regulators has resulted in extraordinarily complex health care business procedures that consume almost one-third of our nation's expenditures for health care; and

WHEREAS, administrative waste stemming from our reliance on private insurance consumes one-third of public health spending while the single-payer Medicare health care system has administrative costs of less than 5%; and

WHEREAS, rationing healthcare according to ability to pay has diminished the overall health of our citizens to the point that the United States ranks last among industrialized nations in health outcomes and as many as 30,000 people in the United States die each year due to inadequate healthcare; and

WHEREAS, numerous academic studies have concluded that administrative savings under a single-payer Medicare for All system would be enough to cover the currently uninsured and improve coverage for all those who now have only partial coverage; and

WHEREAS, entrusting care to profit oriented firms diverts billions of dollars to outrageous incomes for CEO's and threatens the quality of care; and

WHEREAS, the failure to provide affordable and appropriate preventive health care services places unnecessary and more costly demands upon West Orange emergency health care services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that West Orange affirms that health care is a human right that should be guaranteed to all U.S. residents;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that West Orange endorses the Medicare for All Act 2021 that will expand health coverage and health security, eliminate health disparities, and lower health care costs for all of our community residents;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that West Orange hereby notifies our United States Congresswoman Mikie Sherrill, Congressman Donald Payne, Jr., our United States Senator Bob Menendez and Senator Cory Booker of our township's endorsement, and urge them to cosponsor Medicare for All Act of 2021;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that West Orange encourages all of our residents to contact their member of Congress and other elected representatives to encourage them to cosponsor the Medicare for All Act of 2021.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Municipal Clerk shall transmit a copy of this Resolution to Congresspersons Mikie Sherrill and Donald Payne, Jr., and Senators Bob Menendez and Cory Booker.

Karen J. Carnevale, R.M.C.
Township Clerk

Cindy Matute-Brown
Council President

Adopted: March 23, 2021