

Legislative #

200048

RESOLUTION NO. 200048

A Resolution of the City Commission of the City of Gainesville, Florida urging the Florida legislature to approve medicaid expansion for certain qualified adults under the age of 65 in an effort to address the COVID-19 public health emergency; providing directions to the Clerk of the Commission; and providing an immediate effective date.

WHEREAS, Gainesville prides itself on being known as a citizen centered and people empowered city; and

WHEREAS, nearly 18 percent (10,923) of Alachua County residents are estimated to be uninsured; and

WHEREAS, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act provides federal funding for states to expand Medicaid to all citizens earning less than 138 percent of the federal poverty level; and

WHEREAS, this Medicaid expansion would extend insurance coverage to more than 800,000 Floridians; and

WHEREAS, according to the Florida Policy Institute, Florida would see net state budget savings of roughly \$200 million in Fiscal Year 2022-23 by expanding the Medicaid program; and

WHEREAS, our state decision to not expand Medicaid means that some of our poorest citizens – especially adults without children with incomes below 100 percent of the federal poverty level – will go without coverage in 2020 because they are not eligible for subsidies on the healthcare exchange or marketplace; and

WHEREAS, in light of COVID-19 and for public health purposes, it is necessary that Floridians who are most in need have access to health insurance; and

WHEREAS, further, the benefits of expanded Medicaid eligibility would not only serve those who would obtain health care coverage, but the general public as well because the number of uninsured people would decrease and the number of people who receive health care treatment

would likely result in a corresponding increase, which among other things, diminishes the likelihood of transmitting communicable diseases such as COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, in consideration of the public health emergency caused by COVID-19 and the pressing need many Floridians have for health care coverage; and

WHEREAS, the Gainesville City Commission believes all residents should have access to quality, affordable health coverage.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the members of the Gainesville City Commission do hereby urge the Florida legislature and the Governor to accept federal funds to expand Medicaid in Florida.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the members of Alachua County’s State Legislative delegation, Governor Ron DeSantis, Jose Olivia, Speaker of the House and Bill Galvano, President of the Senate.

This Resolution will become effective immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2020.

Lauren Poe, Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

Omichele D. Gainey, Clerk of the
Commission

Nicolle M. Shalley, City Attorney