

1 RESOLUTION R-2023- 45

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3 A RESOLUTION OF THE LONGMONT CITY COUNCIL ENDORSING IMPROVED  
4 MEDICARE FOR ALL AS THE STATE OR NATIONAL HEALTH SYSTEM

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6 THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LONGMONT, COLORADO, RESOLVES:

7 WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically demonstrated the failings of our  
8 current patchwork of health care programs serving Longmont and the nation; and

9 WHEREAS, all Longmont residents should have access to a state or national not-for-profit,  
10 single payer, healthcare financing system that pays for comprehensive, high quality, affordable  
11 health care, including dental, vision, hearing, and mental health services; and

12 WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has clearly demonstrated that access to health care  
13 should not be tied to employment; and

14 WHEREAS, the pandemic has highlighted the systemic racial bias present in our health  
15 care system that contributed to people of color having poorer access to health care and poorer  
16 health outcomes; and

17 WHEREAS, the pandemic has demonstrated the critical roles people of all incomes levels  
18 provide to keep our economy functioning properly and that everyone must have access to high  
19 quality, affordable, health care to continue providing these services; and

20 WHEREAS, the high cost of health care is a significant factor in the inability of many  
21 Longmont residents to find affordable housing; and

1           WHEREAS, Longmont residents should not have to worry about loss of affordable health  
2 care when making decisions about marriage or divorce or about providing care for elderly, sick or  
3 young family members; and

4           WHEREAS, patients should have free access to qualified providers without the limitations  
5 of In-Network and Out of Network structures; and

6           WHEREAS, a comprehensive national health care system should negotiate the prices for  
7 all prescription drugs as is done in all other developed countries, and

8           WHEREAS, many small businesses in Longmont struggle to attract and retain employees  
9 because employees are often looking for jobs with health care benefits; and

10          WHEREAS, the Longmont economy would benefit when entrepreneurs have the freedom  
11 to pursue their vision without being constrained by the potential loss of health care for themselves  
12 and their family members if they leave existing employment; and

13          WHEREAS, health care should be pre-paid by monthly premiums and other taxes, based  
14 on one's ability to pay, without deductibles or copayments that create barriers to care; and

15          WHEREAS, a state or national health care financing system would set compensation for  
16 licensed health care providers at levels that attract and retain talented professionals; and

17          WHEREAS, the high cost and complexity of the many programs currently funding health  
18 care in America are failing to meet the needs of too many individuals, families and businesses in  
19 Longmont and the nation as a whole; and

20          WHEREAS, limited access to effective mental health resources contributes significantly  
21 to homelessness in Longmont; and

22          WHEREAS, challenges to the local access and affordability crisis can only be addressed  
23 at the state and/or federal levels of government; and

1           WHEREAS, the current dysfunctional health care financing system and its impact on  
2 Longmont residents will limit the City from achieving City Council goals; and

3           WHEREAS, the final report released September 2021 from the Health Care Cost Analysis  
4 Task Force (funded by the State Legislature via HB 19-1176 and prepared by the University of  
5 Colorado School of Public Health) identified a state run, not-for-profit, single payer health care  
6 financing system as the most cost effective way to provide comprehensive, affordable health care  
7 to all residents of Colorado; and

8           WHEREAS, the Longmont City Council believes an improved Medicare for All model for  
9 financing health care can address all the criteria and concerns listed above.

10          NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

11          1.       The Longmont City Council hereby urge the Governor of Colorado, our state  
12 legislators, and our congressional representatives to actively support state or federal legislation  
13 that results in comprehensive, affordable health care for all Longmont residents that is funded by  
14 a public, not-for-profit, single payer system. An example of such a system is SB 4204, the  
15 Medicare for All Act of 2022.

16          2.       A copy of this resolution should be sent by the Mayor to the Governor of Colorado,  
17 our state legislators, and our federal elected representatives.

18          Passed and adopted this 25th    day of    April    , 2023    .

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MAYOR

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ATTEST:

 

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CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM

  
Tim Hole (Apr 21, 2023 15:29 MDT)

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Apr 21, 2023

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ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY

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DATE

  
Katy Kubier (Apr 21, 2023 15:26 MDT)

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Apr 21, 2023

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PROOFREAD

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DATE

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND SUBSTANCE:

 

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Apr 27, 2023

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ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT

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DATE

CA File: 23-002283