

A Resolution of the Larimer County Board of Commissioners Supporting Improved Medicare for All as the State or National Health Care System

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically demonstrated the inadequacies of our current patchwork of health care programs serving Larimer County and the nation; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic “temporary relief” measures provided more access to health care and will be ending May 31, 2023; and

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

WHEREAS, the pandemic has especially accentuated financial challenges for small, independent rural hospitals, placing many at risk of becoming unsustainable; and

WHEREAS, the pandemic has highlighted the systemic racial bias present in our healthcare system that contributes to people of color having deficient access to health care and poorer health outcomes.

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

WHEREAS, the high cost of healthcare is a significant factor in the inability of many Larimer County residents to find affordable housing and affordable childcare; and

WHEREAS, all Larimer County residents should have access to a state or national not-for-profit, single payer, health care financing system that pays for comprehensive, high quality, affordable health care, including dental, vision, hearing and behavioral health services; and

WHEREAS, Larimer County residents should not have to worry about loss of affordable health care when making decisions about marriage or divorce or about providing care for older, sick or young family members; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, a state or national healthcare system can incentivize preventative and primary care that promotes health and well-being and saves health care costs; and

WHEREAS, the final report released September 2021 from the Health Care Cost Analysis Task Force identified a state run, not-for-profit, single payer health care financing system as the most cost effective way to provide comprehensive, affordable health care to all residents of Colorado.

WHEREAS, the Larimer County Commissioners believe a publicly financed, privately delivered Improved Medicare for All model for health care can address all the criteria and concerns listed above; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED.

1. That the Larimer County Commissioners hereby urge the Governor of Colorado, our state legislators, and our congressional representatives to actively support state or federal legislation that results in comprehensive, affordable health care for all Colorado residents and is funded by a public, not-for-profit, single payer system. An example of such federal legislation is SB 4204, the *Medicare for All Act of 2022*.
2. That the Larimer County Commissioners urge all Larimer County Community members to engage in civil and public discourse to achieve a comprehensive and effective health care finance and delivery system that is accessible to all.

Adopted by the Larimer County, Colorado Commissioners on this 23rd day of May, 2023.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

LARIMER COUNTY, COLORADO

BY: Jody Shaddock McNally

Chair

ATTEST:

Jesse Beatty

Deputy Clerk