

City Council passes resolution supporting Medicare for All Act of 2019

The Bethlehem Gadfly City government, Serious Issues November 8, 2019

 *The latest in a series of posts on City government* 

The resolution to support the Medicare for All Act was one of the reasons Town Hall was packed for the City Council meeting last Wednesday night. Gadfly will spend 2-3 posts providing an overview of this resolution, which passed unanimously.

“This resolution is not about answering every question about how these programs are going to work. . . . We can’t continue to say people aren’t ready for a conversation. . . . This is a vote about understanding the magnitude of the issue, it’s a vote about showing the courage about where we’re going to go. . . . We need these conversations. . . . It’s about showing not just our leaders in Washington but also our community. . . . It’s about who we are as a city, about who we want to be, and about how we want to serve the citizens of Bethlehem.”

Councilman Reynolds, prime mover of the resolution

along with Councilman Colon

https://youtu.be/xCGfO5m_MJU

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

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

WHEREAS, every person in the City of Bethlehem deserves high quality health care;

WHEREAS, continually rising health care costs stress our City budget and hurt the businesses which keep our community thriving;

WHEREAS the Medicare for All Act of 2019 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; women's reproductive care; dental and vision care; and long-term care;

WHEREAS the Medicare for All Act of 2019 would provide coverage limiting or eliminating copays, deductibles or other out-of-pocket costs, and would reduce bureaucracy, protect the doctor-patient relationship and assure patients a free choice of doctors;

WHEREAS, the Medicare for All Act of 2019 will guarantee that all residents of the City of Bethlehem will be fully covered for health care and would save millions in taxpayer dollars now spent on health insurance premiums for municipal employees; and

WHEREAS, the quality of life for the residents of the City of Bethlehem will improve because they would be able to receive the ongoing care they need, instead of waiting until they have a medical emergency that could disrupt their lives as well as further burden local resources.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Bethlehem supports the Medicare for All Act of 2019 (H.R. 1384 and S. 1129) and calls on our federal legislators to work toward its immediate enactment, providing appropriate and efficient health care for all residents of the United States, including in the City of Bethlehem.

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Richard Master, speaking for citizens' groups in support of the resolution

<https://youtu.be/NW3oC1z0lgs>

to be continued . . .