

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION BY THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA, REQUESTING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WORK TO SUPPORT LEGISLATION EXPANDING MEDICAID ACCESS TO ELIGIBLE GEORGIANS

WHEREAS, the Governing Authority of DeKalb County, Georgia, requests the General Assembly work to support legislation expanding Medicaid access to eligible Georgians; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid is the nation's health insurance program for low-income individuals and families; and

WHEREAS, The Affordable Care Act was enacted in 2010 and provides Medicaid access to low-income residents within states, with the federal government paying at least 90% of the cost of the expansion; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling on this healthcare reform makes Medicaid expansion optional for states; and

WHEREAS, Georgia is currently one of 12 states that has not fully expanded its Medicaid access throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, state leaders developed the Georgia Pathways program to increase healthcare coverage for uninsured residents, including the creation of two Medicaid waivers, and was subsequently approved by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS); and

WHEREAS, one of the waivers expanded Medicaid eligibility to all Georgians living at or below the poverty line, with a requirement of meeting work, school, or volunteer thresholds of twenty (20) hours a week or eighty (80) hours a month; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, the Biden administration rescinded approval of this waiver due to work requirement provisions, and is pending further federal review; and

WHEREAS, the second waiver, currently in federal review, would cover qualified individuals at up to 137% of the poverty line and involves working with insurance companies; and

WHEREAS, research shows that the Georgia Pathways program would leave at least 350,000 adults within the state uninsured because they do not meet the requirements within the waiver(s); and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion is essential to the state's economy, preserves access to care for every Georgian, and ensures a healthy workforce;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Authority of DeKalb County, Georgia, hereby requests that:

- 1) The General Assembly work to find a Georgia-driven solution to expand health coverage to all eligible recipients, regardless of individual work, school, or volunteer requirements

ADOPTED by the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners, this ____ day of _____, 2021.

STEPHEN R. BRADSHAW

Presiding Officer
Board of Commissioners
DeKalb County, Georgia

APPROVED by the Chief Executive Officer of DeKalb County, this ____ day of _____, 2021.

MICHAEL L. THURMOND

Chief Executive Officer
DeKalb County, Georgia

ATTEST:

BARBARA SANDERS-NORWOOD, CCC

Clerk to the Board of Commissioners and
Chief Executive Officer
DeKalb County, Georgia

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

VIVIANE H. ERNSTES

County Attorney
DeKalb County, Georgia