



RESOLUTION NO. 2020-024

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE NEW MEXICO HEALTH SECURITY ACT

WHEREAS the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (“Affordable Care Act”), passed in 2010, was the first systemic national effort to address the issues of affordable health care coverage; and

WHEREAS, until the onset of COVID-19, the number of uninsured residents in the State of New Mexico had substantially decreased due to the Affordable Care Act’s expanded Medicaid eligibility and state-run health insurance exchange; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in higher unemployment, which in turn has increased the number of New Mexicans without health insurance; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has exposed the gaps in our health care system and has had a disproportionate impact on Native American, Hispanic, and Black New Mexicans; and

WHEREAS, due to the pandemic, our already fragile rural hospital systems are confronted with greater challenges to providing needed services for our rural communities; and

WHEREAS, health care premiums, insurance deductibles, patient copayments, and the cost of pharmaceutical drugs continue to increase; and

WHEREAS, rising health care costs are a serious problem that impacts our state and local government budgets, as well as family budgets; and

WHEREAS, according to a 2020 poll by the Kaiser Family Foundation, unexpected medical bills are Americans’ top budget concern; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a major impact on our economy, as well as exacerbating rural and urban health access issues; and

WHEREAS, decreasing the percentage of state, county, and city expenditures on health care will free up funds to be spent on other critical needs, such as economic development, education, and infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, elected and appointed officials in Washington, DC are giving the clear message that states need to take the lead in health care reform; and

WHEREAS, Section 1332 of the Affordable Care Act allows states to receive waivers for state innovation, which enable states to develop alternatives that may be more appropriate to their circumstances; and

WHEREAS, numerous studies, including two reputable ones conducted in the State of New Mexico, show that a plan that covers most residents under one health risk pool would reap the benefits of economies of scale, substantially contain costs, reduce administrative complexity and uncompensated care, and create a more stable health care system that benefits all residents of the State of New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the Health Security Act is a homegrown New Mexico plan that has been developed over many years with input from diverse sectors from all over the state; and

WHEREAS, the Health Security Act will enable New Mexico to set up its own health plan, like a cooperative, that automatically covers most residents and ensures that all New Mexicans will have guaranteed comprehensive and affordable health coverage regardless of age, employment, or health status; and

WHEREAS, given our growing health care crisis, it is critical for the legislature to approve the Health Security Act so the two- to three-year Health Security Plan development process can begin as soon as possible.

WHEREAS, over the years, more than 170 New Mexico organizations and 37 cities and counties representing a broad cross-section of New Mexicans from all parts of the state have endorsed the Health Security Act.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the **Governing Body of the City of Anthony, New Mexico** supports and endorses the proposed Health Security Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the **Governing Body of the City of Anthony, New Mexico** shall work to ensure passage of the Health Security Act and shall urge the New Mexico Municipal League to make the Health Security Act a legislative priority during the 2021 State Legislative Session; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the city clerk will send a letter and a copy of this resolution to each member of our state legislative delegation.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 5TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2020.

ATTEST:


Esther Motongo, City Clerk




Diana M. Trujillo, Mayor

ROLL CALL VOTE:

MPT Fernie Herrera

YES NO

Trustee Gloria Gameros

YES NO

Trustee Elva Flores

YES NO

Trustee Javier Silva

YES NO

