

RESOLUTION NO. 41-21

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA, IN SUPPORT OF ASSEMBLY BILL 1400 (KALRA), THE CALIFORNIA GUARANTEED HEALTH CARE FOR ALL (CALCARE) ACT TO ESTABLISH A COMPREHENSIVE UNIVERSAL SINGLE PAYER HEALTH CARE PROGRAM FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL RESIDENTS OF THE STATE

WHEREAS, every resident of the State of California should have a right to health care; and

WHEREAS, the number of Californians before the Covid-19 pandemic without health insurance was 2.7 million, with 12 million Californians underinsured, despite important gains made since the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA); and

WHEREAS, the current Covid-19 pandemic has led to record levels of unemployment, loss of employer-sponsored health insurance, a severely strained health care system, widespread illness, and has taken a profound toll on the community's mental health, all of which is placing significant demands on our health care system, and

WHEREAS, the Covid-19 pandemic further exposed the dangers of our fragmented, profit-driven health care system, which leads to inequities and disparities in access to care and leads many Californians to delay seeking needed health care due to an inability to pay, leading to a sicker and poorer population in the long run; and

WHEREAS, Californians, as individuals, employers, and taxpayers have experienced a rise in the cost of health care and health care coverage in recent years, including rising premiums, deductibles, and copays, as well as restricted provider networks and high out-of-network charges; and

WHEREAS, businesses have also experienced increases in the costs of health care benefits for their employees, and many employers are shifting a larger share of the cost of coverage to their employees or dropping coverage entirely; and

WHEREAS, the ever-increasing costs of health care, which are further elevated due to the pandemic, challenge our already strapped State and municipal budgets; and

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 1400 (AB 1400) would establish a state-wide comprehensive universal single payer health care cost control system for the benefit of all residents of the State; and

WHEREAS, AB 1400 would guarantee health care for every resident in California for all necessary medical care including prescription drugs; hospital, surgical and outpatient services; primary and preventive care; emergency services; reproductive care; dental and vision care; and long-term care; and

WHEREAS, AB 1400 would eliminate co-pays and high deductibles, and reduce cost by slashing bureaucracy, cutting out insurance company waste and duplication; and

WHEREAS, AB 1400 would give patients the freedom to choose their doctor; protect the doctor-patient relationship and would manage prescription drug costs; and

WHEREAS, AB 1400 is sponsored by the California Nurses Association and supported by a multitude of organizations representing community, labor, immigrant rights, business, seniors, healthcare providers and advocates; and

WHEREAS, the present federal administration has the policy to empower states to use ACA innovation waivers to develop locally tailored approaches to health coverage, including a statewide universal health care system; and

WHEREAS, in order to equitably and effectively address the health care burden of the Covid-19 crisis, we must urge the California legislature to provide comprehensive health care to every resident of California; and

WHEREAS, the Richmond City Council's endorsement of AB 1400 is consistent with past support for other single payer and universal health care bills presented in the legislature (most recently in 2017 as support for SB 562, The Healthy California Act), as well as the Health and Wellness Element of the General Plan and Richmond Health in All Policies Program.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Richmond, California does hereby support AB 1400 (KALRA) consistent with the City Council's past support for other single payer and universal health care bills presented in the California State legislature;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that staff is hereby directed to send a copy of this resolution to Assemblymember Ash Kalra, Assemblymember Buffy Wicks, Senator Nancy Skinner, and the Chair of the Assembly Health Committee, urging them to stand with the people of Richmond and California in support of this important bill.

I certify that the foregoing resolution was passed and adopted by the Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting thereof held April 20, 2021, by the following vote:

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| AYES: | Councilmembers Bates, Jimenez, Martinez, McLaughlin, Willis, Vice Mayor Johnson III, and Mayor Butt. |
| NOES: | None. |
| ABSTENTIONS: | None. |
| ABSENT: | None. |

PAMELA CHRISTIAN
CLERK OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND
(SEAL)

Approved:

THOMAS K. BUTT
Mayor

Approved as to form:

TERESA STRICKER
City Attorney

State of California }
County of Contra Costa } : ss.
City of Richmond }

I certify that the foregoing is a true copy of **Resolution No. 41-21**, finally passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting held on April 20, 2021.



Pamela Christian, Clerk of the City of Richmond