

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 25**  
**IN SUPPORT OF THE MEDICARE FOR ALL ACT OF 2021**

**WHEREAS**, every person in Saint Louis and the United States should have guaranteed timely access to health services of the highest quality; and

**WHEREAS**, our society has a moral obligation to ensure health care for all its people; and

**WHEREAS**, health care rationing and discrimination based on socioeconomic status and perceived social worth is inherent in profit-driven healthcare; and

**WHEREAS**, health care must be allocated according to medical need; and

**WHEREAS**, in a 2016 survey of Saint Louis residents, Black residents were twice as likely to not have insurance, and gave Saint Louis a Racial Equity Score of 40 out of 100; and

**WHEREAS**, a 2019 study by the U.S. Census Bureau showed an increase in Missouri's uninsured, ranking Missouri at 36<sup>th</sup> in health care nationwide based on increasing mortality rates, increasing premature deaths, increasing rates of cancer mortality, lack of access to preventive care, undiagnosed or untreated chronic illness, and more Emergency Room visits; and

**WHEREAS**, the average cost of insuring a City employee is just under \$8,000, or 17% of the average City employee's salary; and

**WHEREAS**, health care costs are rising faster than wages; and the rising cost of insuring municipal employees and retirees can best be met, not by limiting benefits, but by expanding them under a national, publicly funded health care program; and

**WHEREAS**, Saint Louis is home to world-class universities, medical schools, hospitals and clinics; and

**WHEREAS**, Saint Louis hospitals will benefit from prompt, guaranteed payment for services, and an enhanced public image,

**WHEREAS**, the United States spends nearly twice as much per capita on health care compared to other industrialized countries, yet only a fraction of our people are entitled to it; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States ranks 35<sup>th</sup> by the World Health Organization in quality of health care using public health standards, such as life expectancy, infant mortality, maternal mortality, and death from preventable causes; and

**WHEREAS**, the long-term effects of COVID-19 will continue to haunt our City, increasing risk to life and health for the foreseeable future; and

**WHEREAS**, citizens with commercial insurance often experience delays in obtaining medical care or denials of reimbursement; and

**WHEREAS**, citizens with commercial insurance suffer increasing out-of-pocket costs increasing premiums, uncovered services, and out of network bills, yet more than one-half of all personal bankruptcies are due to medical bills; and

**WHEREAS**, the Medicare for All Act of 2021 guarantees universality, accessibility, and comprehensive care including preventive care, hearing and vision care, mental health services and dental care, reproductive and maternity services, long term care, and prescription drugs; and

**WHEREAS**, Medicare for All would adequately fund health care in an efficient, fair, and sustainable way; and

**WHEREAS**, under Medicare for All, Saint Louis businesses will have a healthier, more productive workforce, and be competitive without cost burdens of insurance for current or retired employees; and

**WHEREAS**, Medicare for All would reduce costs substantially through elimination of bureaucratic waste and bloated administration, simple streamlined billing, and by negotiating drug prices with manufacturers.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Aldermen the Board supports and endorses The Medicare for All Act of 2021, which will expand health security and health services to all, eliminate health disparities, and lower health care costs, and hereby directs the Clerk of the Board of Aldermen to send a copy of this Resolution to Missouri's U.S. Representatives and Senators.

**Introduced this 6<sup>th</sup> day of May 2022 by:**

**The Honorable Pamela Boyd, Alderwoman 27<sup>th</sup> Ward**

**The Honorable Christine Ingrassia, Alderwoman 6<sup>th</sup> Ward**

**The Honorable Lisa Middlebrook, Alderwoman 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward**

**The Honorable Dan Guenther, Alderman 9<sup>th</sup> Ward**

**The Honorable Annie Rice, Alderwoman 8<sup>th</sup> Ward**

**The Honorable Jesse Todd, Alderman 18<sup>th</sup> Ward**

**The Honorable Shameem Clark-Hubbard, Alderwoman 26<sup>th</sup> Ward**

**The Honorable Tina Pihl, Alderwoman 17<sup>th</sup> Ward**

**Adopted this 13<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2022 as attested by:**

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**Terry Kennedy**  
**Clerk, Board of Aldermen**

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**Lewis Reed**  
**President, Board of Aldermen**