

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT, MARYLAND

RESOLUTION NO. R-10-03

Introduced By **City Council**
Date Introduced **July 13, 2009**
Amendments Adopted **July 13, 2009**
Date Adopted **July 13, 2009**
Date Effective **July 13, 2009**

A RESOLUTION to

Support Health Care Reform Principles

WHEREAS, approximately 1.4 million; 29.1% of residents in Maryland under age were uninsured at some point in time during 2007-2008, according to a report by Families USA, April 2009. In fact, 1 million of those uninsured Marylanders, 73.6% of the total, were uninsured for 6 months or more during that time; and,

WHEREAS, cities are on the frontline of the healthcare crisis with high rates of uninsured and rapidly escalating costs affecting residents, businesses, and workers; and

WHEREAS, the City of Seat Pleasant spends approximately \$199, 361.00 annually to provide health coverage for the employees, dependents, and rising health costs can affect the cities' ability to provide their city services; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Seat Pleasant citizens lack health insurance and are less likely than their insured counterparts to receive recommended preventive and screening services, or medicines and treatments that meet the professional standard, and are more likely to die prematurely; and

WHEREAS, children in Seat Pleasant who may lack health insurance coverage will have fewer well-child visits, worse access to specialists, fewer immunizations and more visits to the emergency room than children with health coverage; and

WHEREAS, health care costs, and employment-based health insurance premiums in particular, have increased at rates much higher than inflation or wage growth for the last decade; and

WHEREAS, our current health care system focuses on treating disease rather than preventing it or promoting wellness; and

WHEREAS, there are large disparities in health status and health outcomes based on race, ethnicity, and physical ability, and many health care providers do not offer adequate service to patients with limited English proficiency or limited physical or mental ability; and

WHEREAS, chronic diseases pose the greatest challenge to our health care system and our health care delivery system is not well-organized to prevent and treat them; and

WHEREAS, public hospitals and clinics, community health centers, and other safety net providers provide care to millions of underserved individuals regardless of income, health coverage or immigration status; and

WHEREAS, we have attempted to develop innovative programs to expand access to quality health care, make health services more affordable, we acknowledge that any comprehensive reform must be led by the federal government; and

WHEREAS, leaders in both political parties serving in Congress and the White House have called for enactment of comprehensive health care reform; and

WHEREAS, the President has pledged enactment of comprehensive reform this year, and substantial progress is being made in Congress to engage stakeholders and craft comprehensive reform; and

WHEREAS, Mayors and City Council Members, as representatives of their citizens, as employers, as health care providers and as partners to small and large businesses who struggle with health care costs, should have their voices heard in the crafting of comprehensive reform proposals, and all people should be willing to make some sacrifices to gain a comprehensive health care system for all

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the City of Seat Pleasant City Council supports and calls for the immediate enactment of the Administration's health care reform principles and agrees that comprehensive reform should reduce long-term growth of health care costs for businesses and government; protect families from bankruptcy or debt because of health care costs; guarantee choice of doctors and health plans; invest in prevention and wellness; improve patient safety and quality of care; assure affordable, quality health coverage for all Americans; maintain coverage when someone changes or loses a job; and end barriers to coverage for people with pre-existing medical conditions, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Seat Pleasant City Council urges Congress to support public hospitals and other providers in the health care safety net so that those who fall through the cracks of expanded health coverage may still receive care; so that surge capacity is available in case of public health emergencies; and so that the

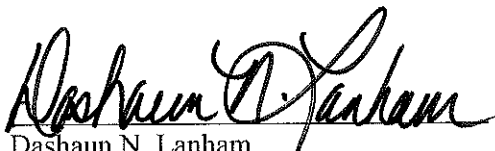
cultural competencies achieved by providers serving diverse populations are preserved and enhanced in a reformed health care system.

AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED AND RESOLVED that this Resolution be and is hereby enacted this July 13, 2009 to take effect immediately.



Brian K. Shivers
City Council President

ATTEST:



Dashaun N. Lanham
City Clerk