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CITY HALL • 1 FRANK H. OGAWA PLAZA • OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA 94612

REBECCA KAPLAN  
Council President  
atlarge@oaklandnet.com

(510) 238-7008  
FAX: (510) 238-6910  
TDD: (510) 839-6451

Date: March 21, 2019  
To: Members of City Council and Members of the Public  
From: Council President Kaplan  
Re: Resolution In Support Of Medicare For All Act 2019, HR 1384

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Dear Colleagues on the City Council and Members of the Public,

I respectfully ask you to adopt our resolution in support of the Medicare For All Act of 2019, HR 1384. Even with the Affordable Care Act, millions of Americans still don't have access to healthcare. The inability to pay medical bills continues to be a leading cause of personal bankruptcy, and people who need medical care should never face bankruptcy as a result of needing care. This bill would do the following:

- Establish guaranteed, universal health care for all U.S. residents,
- Provide comprehensive health care, including all primary care, hospital and outpatient services, dental, vision, audiology, maternity and newborn care, women's reproductive services, mental health, prescription drugs, and long-term care services,
- Eliminate all costs for premiums, deductibles, co-pays, and other out-of-pocket costs that have caused such a crisis for tens of millions of people,
- Ensure genuine patient choice of any doctor, hospital, clinic, or other provider a patient chooses without the restrictions imposed by private insurers,
- Sharply reduce the cost of prescription drugs by authorizing Medicare to negotiate lower drug prices as most of the rest of the world does, and
- Protect the ability of service veterans to continue to receive their specialized care through the Veterans Administration if they choose and Native Americans to receive their medical benefits through the Indian Health Service if they choose.

We thank the California Nurses Association, Representatives Pramila Jayapal (D-WA) and Barbara Lee (D-CA), and the over 100 other co-sponsors of this bill for their leadership on this.

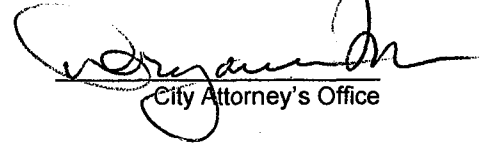
Sincerely,

Rebecca Kaplan

FILED  
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK  
OAKLAND

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Approved as to Form and Legality



City Attorney's Office

## OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT KAPLAN

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### RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE RESOLUTION 1384, MEDICARE FOR ALL ACT 2019

**WHEREAS**, the United States spends nearly twice as much per capita on health care as all other comparable countries and yet ranks only 35<sup>th</sup> in the world by global health standards, including on such critical barometers as average life expectancy, infant mortality, maternal mortality, and death from preventable diseases; and

**WHEREAS**, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) enacted important improvements, primarily through the expansion of Medicaid in states that have agreed to do so, and limits on some insurance industry abuses, that reform left tens of millions with a continuing crisis in access, cost, and quality of care; and

**WHEREAS**, even after implementation of the ACA, the uninsured rate for U.S. adults has risen for four straight years up to nearly 30 million, with the greatest increase among women, young adults, and lower-income people; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 40 percent of all U.S. adults under the age of 65 forego needed medical care, 30 percent fail to fill a prescription or take less than the recommended dose, and a third said they had to choose in the past year between paying for food, heating, housing, or healthcare, according to a 2018 survey by the West Health Institute and NORC at the University of Chicago; and

**WHEREAS**, the inability to pay medical bills continues to be a leading cause of personal bankruptcy, and people who need medical care should never face bankruptcy as a result of needing care; and

**WHEREAS**, discrimination, based on race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, age, socioeconomic status, and where one lives is particularly systematic to a profit-based health care system; and

**WHEREAS**, 55 percent of the uninsured are people of color; African Americans suffer higher death rates than whites at an earlier age due to heart disease, diabetes, cancer, HIV, and infant mortality; African-American women are three to four times more likely than white women to die in childbirth; and African-American and Latino students are more likely to experience health risks due to exposure to toxins and air pollution at school; and

**WHEREAS**, employer-provided health benefits are declining and employees' costs are increasing through cost-shifting to workers, including increased cost of premiums for workers covered by employer-paid insurance, which have risen by an average of 65 percent, and deductibles have risen by an average of 212 percent over the past decade; and

**WHEREAS**, due to their profit incentive, private insurance companies deny up to one-fourth of all claims for care and restrict patient choice through narrow networks for doctors and hospitals, limited drug formularies, and other limits in coverage; and

**WHEREAS**, the Medicare for All Act, House Resolution 1384, would:

- Establish guaranteed, universal health care for all U.S. residents,
- Provide comprehensive health care, including all primary care, hospital and outpatient services, dental, vision, audiology, maternity and newborn care, women's reproductive services, mental health, prescription drugs, and long-term care services,
- Eliminate all costs for premiums, deductibles, co-pays, and other out-of-pocket costs that have caused such a crisis for tens of millions of people,
- Ensure genuine patient choice of any doctor, hospital, clinic, or other provider a patient chooses without the restrictions imposed by private insurers,
- Sharply reduce the cost of prescription drugs by authorizing Medicare to negotiate lower drug prices as most of the rest of the world does,
- Protect the ability of service veterans to continue to receive their specialized care through the Veterans Administration if they choose and Native Americans to receive their medical benefits through the Indian Health Service if they choose; and

**WHEREAS**, nearly all U.S. residents and businesses would spend less, and usually far less, under a Medicare for All program, such as House Resolution 1384, than they do today for health coverage and medical, dental, vision, and other care; and

**WHEREAS**, various studies, both conservative and progressive, have estimated that the U.S. would save from \$2 trillion to \$5 trillion over 10 years over what our country is projected to spend under the current system, due to massive savings in administration costs, lower prescription drug prices, and improved efficiency through a uniform payment system with global budgeting without the waste for billing, marketing, and profit-taking; and

**WHEREAS**, the Medicare for All Act, House Resolution 1384 would establish a system of public financing that retains the private provider system with real patient choice and greater transparency on how our public dollars are spent; and

**WHEREAS**, the Medicare for All Act, House Resolution 1384, would establish peace of mind for everyone, relieving worry about medical bills and access to needed care through a humane system based on patient need, not ability to pay; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**: That the City of Oakland endorses House Resolution 1384, the Medicare for All Act that will expand health coverage and health security, eliminate health disparities, and lower health care costs for all of our community residents; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED**: That the City of Oakland will notify all of our congressional representatives of this endorsement, and urge them to co-sponsor House Resolution 1384 if they haven't already.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - FORTUNATO BAS, GALLO, GIBSON MCELHANEY, KALB, REID, TAYLOR, THAO AND  
PRESIDENT KAPLAN

NOES -

ABSENT -

ABSTENTION -

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
LATONDA SIMMONS  
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of the  
City of Oakland, California