

# Travis County Commissioners Court



## Resolution

WHEREAS, approximately 6 million Texans (23% of the population) had no health insurance in 2011, the highest uninsured rate of any State in the Nation;

WHEREAS, in 2010, 29 million Americans were underinsured, meaning they have health insurance, but their out-of-pocket medical expenses exceeded 10% of their income, among those below 200% of the Federal poverty level their out-of-pocket medical expenses exceeded 5% of income, or the per person deductible for the insurance plan exceeded 5% of income;

WHEREAS, according to the United States Census Bureau's American Community Survey, 209,348 residents in Travis County were uninsured in 2011;

WHEREAS, expanding Medicaid would potentially ensure that 1.5 million more Texans, including 55,676 Travis County residents, would be added to the insured population by 2017;

WHEREAS, Medicaid already helps approximately 2.7 million Texas children, but covers only about 945,000 adults (primarily seniors and the disabled). In Texas, 13.2% of children (0-18) and 30.9% of adults (18-64) were uninsured in 2011, and in Travis County 10.6% of children and 25.0% of adults were uninsured;

WHEREAS, obtaining health insurance coverage for uninsured adults is one of the best things we can do to ensure the economic stability and future of Texas families;

WHEREAS, the Federal Government will cover the entire cost of expanding Medicaid for the first three years, will pay no less than 90% of the total thereafter, and from 2014-2017 expansion will bring \$24 billion in Federal revenue to Texas for just \$1.3 billion in State investment;

WHEREAS, expanding Medicaid would add \$224.1 million in annual Medicaid funds to Travis County;

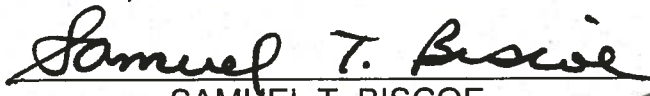
WHEREAS, each dollar spent expanding Medicaid in Texas would result in a \$1.29 increase in State revenue, a 51 cent increase in local government revenue, and a savings to local governments of \$1.21 for investments for uncompensated care;

WHEREAS, preventive care will become available for newly eligible Medicaid participants who access medical services, saving both money and lives; and

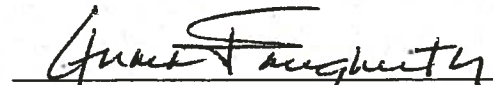
WHEREAS, expanding Medicaid will significantly reduce the current \$1.8 billion in annual private hospital charity care costs, which are traditionally passed on to customers with health insurance, thus translating to better premium value for Texans with private health insurance by lowering costs for everyone.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE TRAVIS COUNTY COMMISSIONER COURT FINDS THAT MEDICAID EXPANSION IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF COUNTY TAXPAYERS AND STRONGLY ENCOURAGES THE GOVERNOR AND STATE LEGISLATURE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EXPANSION OF MEDICAID COVERAGE TO ALL NEWLY ELIGIBLE TEXAS RESIDENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT OF 2010.

ADOPTED THIS 19<sup>th</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2013.

  
SAMUEL T. BISCOE  
TRAVIS COUNTY JUDGE

absent  
RON DAVIS  
COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 1

  
GERALD DAUGHERTY  
COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 3

  
SARAH ECKHARDT  
COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 2

absent  
MARGARET GÓMEZ  
COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 4

WHEREAS, approximately 6 million Texans (23% of the population) had no health insurance in 2011, the highest uninsured rate of any State in the Nation;

WHEREAS, in 2010, 29 million Americans were underinsured, meaning they have health insurance, but their out-of-pocket medical expenses exceeded 10% of their income, among those below 200% of the Federal poverty level their out-of-pocket medical expenses exceeded 5% of income, or the per person deductible for the insurance plan exceeded 5% of income;

WHEREAS, according to the United States Census Bureau's American Community Survey, 209,348 residents in Travis County were uninsured in 2011;

WHEREAS, expanding Medicaid ~~would potentially ensure that 1.5 million more Texans, including 55,676 Travis County residents, would be added to the insured population by 2017;~~ **could provide more alternatives to the uninsured and underinsured populations;**

WHEREAS, Medicaid already helps approximately 2.7 million Texas children, but covers only about 945,000 adults (primarily seniors and the disabled). In Texas, 13.2% of children (0-18) and 30.9% of adults (18-64) were uninsured in 2011, and in Travis County 10.6% of children and 25.0% of adults were uninsured;

WHEREAS, ~~obtaining health insurance coverage for uninsured adults is one of the best things we can do to ensure the economic stability and future of Texas families;~~ **encouraging health insurance, free and low cost clinics and charitable giving are all ways we can help the uninsured and underinsured;**

WHEREAS, the Federal Government will **hopefully** cover the entire cost of expanding Medicaid for the first three years, will **hopefully** pay no less than 90% of the total thereafter, and from 2014-2017 expansion will **hopefully** bring \$24 billion in Federal revenue to Texas for just \$1.3 billion in State ~~investment~~ **spending;**

WHEREAS, expanding Medicaid would **hopefully** add \$224.1 million in annual Medicaid funds to Travis County;

WHEREAS, each dollar spent expanding Medicaid in Texas would result in a \$1.29 increase in State revenue, a 51 cent increase in local government revenue, and a savings to local governments of \$1.21 ~~for~~ **investments in spending** for uncompensated care;

WHEREAS, preventive care will become available for newly eligible Medicaid participants who access medical services, saving both money and lives; and

WHEREAS, ~~expanding Medicaid will significantly reduce the current \$1.8 billion in annual private hospital charity care costs, which are traditionally passed on to customers with health insurance, thus translating to better premium value for Texans with private health insurance by lowering costs for everyone.~~ **More Medicaid funding could be utilized to supplement Central Health encouraging greater access to clinics,**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE TRAVIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT FINDS THAT MEDICAID EXPANSION IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF COUNTY TAXPAYERS AND STRONGLY ENCOURAGES THE GOVERNOR AND STATE LEGISLATURE TO **FIND A WAY FOR PARTICIPATE IN THE EXPANSION OF MEDICAID COVERAGE TO ALL NEWLY ELIGIBLE TEXAS RESIDENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT OF 2010. MORE FUNDING FOR CENTRAL HEALTH CLINICS, AND OTHER PRIVATE CLINICS TO PROVIDE A BROADER SAFETY NET FOR THE MEDICAL NEEDS OF TRAVIS COUNTY RESIDENTS.**

**WHEREAS FURTHER, WE APPEAL TO THOSE MORE FINANCIALLY ABLE RESIDENTS OF TRAVIS COUNTY TO STEP UP THEIR CHARITABLE GIVING TO THE NONPROFITS IN TRAVIS COUNTY THAT ARE FILLING THE MEDICAL GAPS FOR OUR UNINSURED AND UNDERINSURED.**

ADOPTED THIS \_\_\_\_ DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2013.

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SAMUEL T. BISCOE  
TRAVIS COUNTY JUDGE

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RON DAVIS  
COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 1

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SARAH ECKHARDT  
COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 2

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GERALD DAUGHERTY  
COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 3

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MARGARET GÓMEZ  
COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 4

WHEREAS, approximately 6 million Texans (23% of the population) had no health insurance in 2011, the highest uninsured rate of any State in the Nation;

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WHEREAS, according to the United States Census Bureau's American Community Survey, 209,348 residents in Travis County were uninsured in 2011;

WHEREAS, expanding Medicaid could provide more alternatives to the uninsured and underinsured populations;

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WHEREAS, encouraging health insurance, free and low cost clinics and charitable giving are all ways we can help the uninsured and underinsured;

WHEREAS, the Federal Government will hopefully cover the entire cost of expanding Medicaid for the first three years, will hopefully pay no less than 90% of the total thereafter, and from 2014-2017 expansion will hopefully bring \$24 billion in Federal revenue to Texas for just \$1.3 billion in State spending;

WHEREAS, expanding Medicaid would hopefully add \$224.1 million in annual Medicaid funds to Travis County;

WHEREAS, each dollar spent expanding Medicaid in Texas would result in a \$1.29 increase in State revenue, a 51 cent increase in local government revenue, and a savings to local governments of \$1.21 in spending for uncompensated care;

WHEREAS, preventive care will become available for newly eligible Medicaid participants who access medical services, saving both money and lives; and

WHEREAS, more Medicaid funding could be utilized to supplement Central Health, encouraging greater access to clinics;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE TRAVIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT FINDS THAT MEDICAID EXPANSION IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF COUNTY TAXPAYERS AND STRONGLY ENCOURAGES THE GOVERNOR AND STATE LEGISLATURE TO FIND A WAY FOR MORE FUNDING FOR CENTRAL HEALTH CLINICS, AND OTHER PRIVATE CLINICS TO PROVIDE A BROADER SAFETY NET FOR THE MEDICAL NEEDS OF TRAVIS COUNTY RESIDENTS.

WHEREAS FURTHER, WE APPEAL TO THOSE MORE FINANCIALLY ABLE RESIDENTS OF TRAVIS COUNTY TO STEP UP THEIR CHARITABLE GIVING TO THE NONPROFITS IN TRAVIS COUNTY THAT ARE FILLING THE MEDICAL GAPS FOR OUR UNINSURED AND UNDERINSURED.

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