

2
3
4 **A RESOLUTION**

5
6 Urging the Federal Government of the United States to adopt the Medicare for All Act of
7 2019, which will provide free quality medical insurance for all citizens of the United
8 States
9

10
11 WHEREAS, in 1965 Congress enacted legislation that established the Medicare
12 and Medicaid programs, as Title XVIII and Title XIX of the Social Security Act; and
13

14 WHEREAS, Medicare was created specifically to address the medical needs of
15 the elderly population, age 65 and older, and Medicaid was created to provide medical
16 assistance to low income adults, children, pregnant women, and people with disabilities;
17 and
18

19 WHEREAS, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) reported
20 that in 2020 there were 62.2 million people enrolled in Medicare and of that total 25
21 million people also elected to enroll in Medicare Total Advantage; and
22

23 WHEREAS, Medicare consists of two parts; Part A provides hospital insurance
24 and Part B provides supplemental medical insurance; and
25

26 WHEREAS, Part A is funded by 2.9 percent of employer and employee paid
27 payroll taxes and in 2019 the average monthly premium for Part B coverage was
28 \$133.50 per month and for higher wage earners between \$189.60 and \$460.50 per
29 month; and
30

31 WHEREAS, Medicare Total Advantage, commonly referred to as Medicare Part
32 C, is an optional medical insurance that allows individuals enrolled in Part A and Part B
33 the option to receive services through Medicare approved private sector health plans
34 and in 2018, participants that choose to participate in Medicare Total Advantage paid an
35 additional premium of \$34 per month; and
36

37 WHEREAS, on February 27, 2019, the Medicare for All Act of 2019 was
38 introduced in the House of Representatives by Representative Jayapal Pramila along
39 with co-sponsorship and support of 118 members of the House of Representatives to
40 establish a national health insurance program; and

41 WHEREAS, the Medicare for All Act of 2019, would cover all medical services
42 and items including prescription drugs that are medically necessary to diagnose, treat,
43 improve or maintain a person's health condition(s) and prohibit cost sharing of
44 deductibles, coinsurance and copayments for every person in the United States; and
45

46 WHEREAS, additionally, the Medicare for All Act of 2019 would restrict the types
47 of medical coverage that private insurance providers and employers could offer; and
48

49 WHEREAS, the Kaiser Family Foundation reported an estimated 446,000
50 Wisconsinites have lost their employer provided health insurance since July 2020; and
51

52 WHEREAS, additionally millions of people have inadequate medical insurance
53 coverage or not enough medical insurance and are unable to pay their medical bills
54 resulting in people choosing to declare bankruptcy; and
55

56 WHEREAS, healthcare disparities still exist today and according to the
57 Wisconsin Department of Health Services 2020 Baseline and Health Disparities Report,
58 Black, Hispanic, and Asian people were significantly more likely to be unable to obtain
59 medical care due to costs compared to white people; and
60

61 WHEREAS, access to high quality healthcare in communities of color would
62 significantly reduce healthcare disparities and promote fair and equal quality healthcare
63 for everyone regardless of a person's demographic background; and
64

65 WHEREAS, in January 2020, the Kaiser Family Foundation reported that 56
66 percent of people favor a National Medicare for All health plan and 41 percent of people
67 oppose a Medicare for All health plan; and
68

69 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County adopted File No. 20-174 to begin working
70 towards achieving racial equity to improve the health of the entire community; and
71

72 WHEREAS, passage of the Medicare for All Act of 2019 would guarantee that all
73 people have access to high quality medical care, eliminate health care disparities, and
74 improve people's quality of life; and
75

76 WHEREAS, the Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, at its meeting of
77 May 6, 2021, recommended adoption of File No. 21-403 (vote 4-0); now, therefore,

78
79
80
81
82
83
84
85
86
87
88
89
90

BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors is in favor of the Medicare for all Act of 2019 and urges the Federal Government of the United States to support and adopt the act to ensure all citizens of the United States receive access to free quality health insurance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOVLED, the Office of Government Affairs staff is authorized and requested to communicate the contents of this resolution to the Federal Government of the United States.

05/06/21
s:\committees\2021\may\igr\resolutions\21-403 medicare for all.docx