

Resolution Urging the Ohio General Assembly to Support Medicaid Expansion in Ohio

(COMMISSIONERS)

WHEREAS, Ohio has the opportunity to support Medicaid expansion, made possible by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), that will benefit thousands of Ohioans who are currently uninsured and will have a positive impact on Ohio's economy; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion would extend Medicaid eligibility to cover Ohioans making up to 138% of the federal poverty level, which is \$15,856 for an individual or \$26,951 for a family of three; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion will foster healthier individuals, families and communities, and save lives; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion will also have a positive impact on Ohio's economy and keeps Ohio tax dollars in our state; and

WHEREAS, the federal government will pay 100% of the cost of the expansion for the first three years, with the federal government paying an average of 95% of the costs of the expansion between 2014-2019; and

WHEREAS, an additional 275,000 low-income Ohioans would gain access to healthcare with the Medicaid expansion, including preventative care; and

WHEREAS, over 40,000 uninsured residents of Franklin County between the ages of 19-64 are projected to be covered due to a Medicaid expansion, according to the Ohio Medicaid Expansion Study, a partnership of the Health Policy Institute of Ohio, The Ohio State University, the Urban Institute, and REMI; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion would bring \$2.4 billion into the state over the biennium, and over \$13 billion over seven years; and

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WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion will cover health services now paid for locally, freeing up \$100 million in local levy dollars, which have been significantly reduced from the loss of funds from the over the last budget cycle; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion would result in 27,000 additional Ohio jobs and \$1.4 billion in enhanced state revenues over nine years, according to The Ohio Medicaid Expansion Study; and

WHEREAS, the expansion would lessen the need for emergency room care, which puts tremendous strain on the hospital system for uncompensated care; and

WHEREAS, Governor John Kasich supports Medicaid expansion and included the measure in his budget proposal to the Ohio General Assembly; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF FRANKLIN, OHIO:

1. That Franklin County does hereby support the expansion of Medicaid eligibility in Ohio.
2. That Franklin County urges the Ohio General Assembly and the Ohio Governor to support the expansion of Medicaid eligibility in Ohio.
3. That the Clerk of the Franklin County Board of Commissioners is hereby directed to forward a copy of this resolution to Ohio's Central Ohio State Legislative Delegation, the Speaker of the House, the President of the Senate, the House Minority Leader, the Senate Minority Leader, and to the Ohio Governor.