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TO: COUNCIL MEMBERS

FROM: David Whitaker, Director 
Legislative Policy Division Staff

DATE: March 25, 2019

RE: RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE MEDICARE FOR ALL ACT OF 2019

Council member Raquel Castañeda-López requested that the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) draft a resolution in support of the Medicare for All Act of 2019.

Attached, please find our draft of the aforementioned resolution.

Please contact us if we can be of any further assistance.

RESOLUTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER RAQUEL CASTAÑEDA-LÓPEZ

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE MEDICARE FOR ALL ACT OF 2019

WHEREAS, The mission of the Detroit City Council is to promote the economic, cultural and physical welfare of Detroit's citizens through Charter-mandated legislative functions; and

WHEREAS, United States health spending is projected to rise 5.3 percent in 2018, reflecting the rising prices of medical goods and services and higher Medicaid costs. According to the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), in 2017, those same costs rose 4.6 percent to nearly \$3.5 trillion; and

WHEREAS, Despite spending over 18 percent of the nation's gross domestic product on healthcare, weather the fact that over the past three decades, the world has seen a steady decline in the number of women dying from childbirth, the United States is a noticeable outlier. According to the Washington Post, here in the U.S, the maternal mortality rate has been rising, putting the United States in the unenviable company of Afghanistan, Lesotho and Swaziland as countries with rising rates; and

WHEREAS, In addition, while life expectancy around the world are trending upward, in 2018, U.S. life expectancy rates have dropped for the third year in a row. The three-year drop represents the longest sustained decline in actuarial lifespan in the U.S. since the turbulent period of 1915 to 1918, when the decrease could be at least partially attributed to World War I and the devastating 1918 influenza pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Although the Affordable Health Care Act (ACA) has resulted in dramatic increases in health insurance coverage since its passage in 2010, too many Americans are one medical crisis away from bankruptcy, or they are forced to pay for either rent and food, or for life saving medical treatments and medicines; and

WHEREAS, The Medicare For All Act of 2019, if passed, would create a single –payer universal Medicare program that would cover all Americans, including the 28 million Americans that are currently uninsured. The features of the bill include provisions that would, eliminate copays, premiums and deductibles; ensure that every single resident of the U.S. has access to comprehensive quality healthcare, including primary care, hospital and outpatient services and women's reproductive services; long term services and supports; mental health and substance abuse treatments; laboratory and diagnostic services and ambulatory services; and to ensure that patients can choose their own doctors and hospitals;
NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, The Detroit City Council, as an advocate of the efficient use of tax payer dollars, expresses its strong support of Medicare For All Act of 2019 and urges the Federal Government to pass this posthaste; **THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY**

RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Detroit Delegation in Washington and to President Trump.

March 25, 2019