

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

DATE: April 23, 2013
AGENDA ITEM NO. 13b.

Consent Agenda ☐

Regular Agenda ☒

Public Hearing ☐

County Administrator's Signature:

Subject:

Approval of a Resolution in Support of State Implementation of the Federal Affordable Care Act.

Department:

Department of Health and Human Services

Staff Member Responsible:

Gwendolyn Warren, Director

Recommended Action:

I RECOMMEND THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (BOARD) APPROVE THE RESOLUTION PETITIONING THE LEGISLATURE FOR THE STATE OF FLORIDA TO FULLY IMPLEMENT HEALTH CARE EXPANSION UNDER THE PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT.

Summary Explanation/Background:

In 2010 the Federal Government passed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act for the purpose of expanding health care coverage in the United States. As part of the Act, states were given the option of whether or not to implement the provisions of the Act. Those states implementing the Act were could do so internally under their own self created program or by allowing the federal government program to control within the state. Currently, the State Legislature is considering between the above options and the Board of County Commissioners desires to acknowledge its support of the state implementing the Act.

Fiscal Impact/Cost/Revenue Summary:

No fiscal impact

Exhibits/Attachments Attached:

Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 13-_____

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PINELLAS COUNTY PETITIONING THE LEGISLATURE FOR THE STATE OF FLORIDA TO FULLY IMPLEMENT HEALTH CARE EXPANSION UNDER THE PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT.

WHEREAS, The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Public Law 111-148 (hereinafter referred to as the Affordable Care Act), was signed in to law on March 23, 2010; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Supreme Court in *National Federation of Independent Business v. Sebelius*, 567 U.S. ____ (2012), upheld the key provisions of the Affordable Care Act but made the Medicaid expansion provisions optional for the states; and

WHEREAS, the Medicaid program was created by the federal government to provide health care for low-income people who cannot afford health insurance or health services; and

WHEREAS, each state sets its own Medicaid eligibility requirements; and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida has the opportunity to provide an expansion of health care coverage for newly-eligible residents up to 138 percent of the Federal Poverty Level by exercising a new coverage option made available through the Affordable Care Act; and

WHEREAS, health care expansion would provide health care insurance to an estimated one million low-income Floridians and 74,617 Pinellas County residents, significantly reducing the number of uninsured individuals in the State and Pinellas County; and

WHEREAS, the Affordable Care Act creates as opportunity for Florida to maximize the amount of funds needed to pay the costs of expanding health care coverage at 100 percent during the first three years of the program and no less than 90 percent after 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Medicaid Director at Florida's Agency for Health Care Administration explains that the cost savings from the 100 percent federal coverage of "Medically Needy" costs will save the State enough to cover the first decade of health care expansion costs; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature's Economic and Demographic Research Office and Florida's Agency for Health Care Administration explain that it will cost less to cover one million uninsured low-income Floridians than it would to leave these residents uninsured; and

WHEREAS, Moody's Investor Service has stated that hospitals, state and County budgets and employers will incur significant negative financial implications if the State turns down federal funds for health care expansion; and

WHEREAS, the cost of health care expansion will be further offset by savings in the provision of mental health and medical services by state and local tax dollars being replaced with Federal Medicaid dollars; and

WHEREAS, the University of Florida Food and Resource Economics Department reports that using fifty-one billion dollars in federal money to expand health care will boost Florida's economy by creating 121,945 permanent jobs over ten (10) years, as well as adding five billion four hundred ten million dollars in tax revenue for state and local governments in the next ten (10) years; and

WHEREAS, health care expansion is projected to ensure newly-covered residents have access to preventive and therapeutic health care services and improved health, social and behavioral outcomes; and

WHEREAS, Board of County Commissioners has unanimously approved a Healthy Communities initiative and strategically realigned its focus to increase access to health care and improve health services and outcomes for low-income residents; and

WHEREAS, Board of County Commissioners' values are to be sensitive to the needs of individual citizens while also being good stewards of public funds on behalf of the community as a whole; and

WHEREAS, the implemental of the Affordable Care Act will allow for leveraging of federal funds resulting in maximizing Pinellas taxpayer dollars; and

WHEREAS, implementing the provisions of the Affordable Care Act will be an important factor in allowing the Board to achieve these goals in the most efficient manner possible.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA, at a duly-assembled meeting held on the 23rd day of April, 2013, as follows:

Section 1. The Board of County Commissioners for Pinellas County calls upon the State of Florida to fully implement health care expansion for all Floridians living at or below 138 percent of the Federal Poverty Level through full expansion and the implementation of the Affordable Care Act.

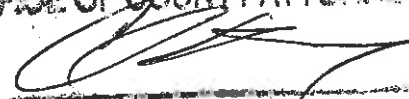
Commissioner _____ offered the foregoing Resolution and moved its adoption, which was second by Commissioner _____, and upon roll call, this vote was:

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSENT AND NOT VOTING:

APPROVED AS TO FORM
OFFICE OF COUNTY ATTORNEY



Attorney