



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**DATE:** February 24, 2015

**AGENDA ITEM NO.** //

**Consent Agenda** ☐

**Regular Agenda** ☒

**Public Hearing** ☐

 **County Administrator's Signature:**

**Subject:**

Adoption of a resolution supporting expansion of health care

**Department:**

County Administrator

**Staff Member Responsible:**

Mary Scott Hardwick, Intergovernmental Liaison

**Recommended Action:**

I RECOMMEND THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (BOARD) ADOPT THE ATTACHED RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE EXPANSION OF HEALTH CARE BY THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE.

**Summary Explanation/Background:**

This resolution expresses support for the expansion of health care in the State of Florida and the drawdown of Federal funds provided for in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010. The resolution is a result of the direction of the Board at the February 10, 2015 meeting. Support for the expansion of healthcare is a part of the Board's State Legislative Program, adopted on December 2, 2014.

County staff and our state contract lobbying firms will closely monitor this issue and advocate on behalf of the Board as the legislative process progresses.

**Fiscal Impact/Cost/Revenue Summary:**

Not Applicable

**Exhibits/Attachments Attached:**

Resolution

## **RESOLUTION 15-\_\_**

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE EXPANSION OF HEALTH CARE IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA; URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO ENACT LEGISLATION EXPANDING HEALTH CARE IN FLORIDA

**WHEREAS**, the Pinellas County Commission is dedicated to providing their citizens access to quality health care; and

**WHEREAS**, there are nearly 50,000 Pinellas County residents, living at or near the poverty level, who would be eligible for health care expansion, including access to coverage for mental health care; and

**WHEREAS**, Pinellas County is currently spending over \$21 million per year to provide a health program to over 7000 citizens who are enrolled on any given day who currently fall into the coverage gap; and

**WHEREAS**, the support of indigent care in our hospitals through the Low-Income Pool program is due to sunset on June 30, 2015, and

**WHEREAS**, by accepting the estimated \$50 billion in federal funds over the next ten years, Pinellas County, and the state of Florida would benefit from their rightful share of their federal tax dollars; and

**WHEREAS**, Twenty-eight states and the District of Columbia have expanded health care, either through Medicaid expansion or the development of their own program that meets that state's unique needs, thereby decreasing the rate of uninsured hospital patients in these states by one-third; and

**WHEREAS**, the estimated savings to states expanding Medicaid or developing their own health care programs is almost \$421 million; and

**WHEREAS**, Pinellas County supports any expansion of health care that draws down Florida's rightful share of federal funds and increases access to health coverage for our citizens.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA, at a duly-assembled meeting held on the \_ day of \_\_, 2015, as follows:

**Section 1.** That the Pinellas County Commission supports health care expansion in Florida and urges the Florida Legislature to pass legislation to expand health care in Florida.

**Section 2.** That a copy of this resolution is sent to the Governor, Senate President, House Speaker, and the Members of the Pinellas County Legislative Delegation.

Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_ offered the foregoing Resolution and moved its adoption, which was seconded by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_, and upon roll call the vote was:

Ayes

Nayes

Absent not voting

APPROVED AS TO FORMS  
OFFICE \_\_\_\_\_  
BY \_\_\_\_\_