

1 Introduced by Council Member Johnson:
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4 **RESOLUTION 2024-776**

5 A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE CITY COUNCIL'S
6 STRONG SUPPORT AND RECOMMENDATION TO THE FLORIDA
7 LEGISLATURE TO WORK TOWARDS MEDICAID EXPANSION
8 IN FLORIDA; DIRECTING THE LEGISLATIVE SERVICES
9 DIVISION TO TRANSMIT COPIES OF THIS RESOLUTION,
10 ONCE ADOPTED, TO THE DUVAL COUNTY LEGISLATIVE
11 DELEGATION, THE SENATE PRESIDENT, THE SPEAKER OF
12 THE HOUSE, AND THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF
13 FLORIDA; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
14

15 **WHEREAS**, Duval County residents deserve high-quality health
16 care; however, approximately 112,000 Duval County Residents remain
17 uninsured, with an even larger portion underinsured, highlighting the
18 urgent need for comprehensive health care reform; and

19 **WHEREAS**, according to the Florida Health Justice Project,
20 there are 2,600,000 Floridians without health insurance despite
21 important gains made since the implementation of the Affordable Care
22 Act; and

23 **WHEREAS**, given the increased demand on healthcare resources in
24 Duval County, along with the economic pressures faced by families and
25 businesses due to healthcare costs, a unified approach to health
26 insurance could not only streamline healthcare delivery but also
27 ensure that every resident has access to necessary medical care
28 without the burden of undue financial strain; and

29 **WHEREAS**, many people delay or avoid seeking needed health care
30 due to an inability to pay, leading to a population experiencing
31 greater health-related challenges; and

1 **WHEREAS**, in Duval County, health-related challenges are
2 compounded in several health zones already facing shortages of medical
3 professionals and facilities, underscoring the importance of a
4 healthcare system that is both accessible and affordable to prevent
5 further strain on our community's well-being and economic stability;
6 and

7 **WHEREAS**, Duval County ranks in the bottom third in Florida at
8 46th out of 67 Counties for overall health outcomes in the state of
9 Florida; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Medicaid expansion has been shown to improve health
11 outcomes by providing timely access to preventive care, reducing the
12 rates of mortality, and lowering the prevalence of chronic conditions;
13 and

14 **WHEREAS**, the economic benefits of Medicaid expansion include
15 job creation in the healthcare sector, increased state revenue from
16 federal funding, and a reduction in the financial burden on local
17 governments such as the City of Jacksonville, which currently funds
18 emergency care for uninsured residents; and

19 **WHEREAS**, in order to equitably and effectively address health
20 care burdens, the expense of these issues should be carried by the
21 federal and state governments in conjunction with local
22 contributions; therefore, we must urge the United States Congress to
23 expand health insurance coverage to provide comprehensive coverage
24 to every resident of the United States without any cost-sharing; and

25 **WHEREAS**, Medicaid expansion would provide critical health
26 insurance coverage for more residents in Duval County, ensuring access
27 to necessary medical care including prescription drugs, hospital,
28 surgical and outpatient services, primary and preventive care,
29 emergency services, reproductive care, dental care, vision care, and
30 long-term care; and

31 **WHEREAS**, Medicaid expansion, while providing more coverage to

1 more residents of Duval County, potentially reduces overall
2 healthcare costs by increasing access to preventive and early
3 treatment services, and would save millions in taxpayer dollars by
4 reducing uncompensated care costs and improving health outcomes and
5 quality of life, thereby enhancing the efficiency of healthcare
6 spending; and

7 **WHEREAS,** recent polls show that a majority of Americans support
8 Medicaid expansion; now therefore

9 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Jacksonville:

10 **Section 1. Declaring the City Council's Support for**
11 **Medicaid Expansion.** The Jacksonville City Council strongly supports
12 the Florida Legislature's efforts to expand healthcare coverage for
13 Floridians, including but not limited to, expansion of Medicaid
14 coverage as a means to ensure that all residents have access to
15 affordable and comprehensive healthcare. The Jacksonville City
16 Council calls upon our State Legislators to work toward Medicaid
17 expansion.

18 **Section 2. Direction to Legislative Services Division.** The
19 Legislative Services Division is hereby directed to provide a copy
20 of this Resolution, once adopted, to the Duval County Legislative
21 Delegation, the Senate President, the Speaker of the House, and the
22 Governor of the State of Florida.

23 **Section 3. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
24 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
25 without the Mayor's signature.

26 Form Approved:

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28 /s/ Shannon MacGillis

29 Office of General Counsel

30 Legislation Prepared By: Shannon MacGillis

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