WHEREAS, A national health insurance program will enable all United States residents to receive the healthcare that our country needs to survive and thrive; and

WHEREAS, All people are deserving of healthcare, however, the current, privatized healthcare system deprives many Americans of timely, effective, affordable, and accessible healthcare; and

WHEREAS, The attempted privatization of Medicare, via the Direct Contracting Entities (DCEs) created by the Trump administration’s Medicare Direct Contracting pilot program, which financially incentivizes DCEs to deny Americans medically necessary care, endangers the lives of at least 30 million traditional Medicare beneficiaries, and threatens the existing Medicare program’s effectiveness as a public, nonprofit, social-insurance program; and

WHEREAS, The United States currently spends almost twice as much per capita on healthcare as comparable countries, and despite that cost, ranks only 35th in the world by global health standards including average life expectancy, infant mortality, maternal mortality, and death from preventable diseases; and

WHEREAS, The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has proven that depriving one person of healthcare injures all people; and

WHEREAS, The matrix of multiple health crises impacting Americans has disproportionately impacted people of color, from the growing environmental crisis which has revealed the devastating rise in environmental racism, to the COVID-19 pandemic which...
decimates communities of color; and
WHEREAS, Fifty-five percent of the uninsured are people of color; and
WHEREAS, Black Americans suffer higher death rates at an earlier age than white Americans due to heart disease, diabetes, cancer, and infant mortality; and
WHEREAS, Black American women are three to four times more likely than white women to die in childbirth; and
WHEREAS, Black American and Latinx students are more likely to experience health risks due to exposure to toxins and air pollution at school and at home; and
WHEREAS, The current, privatized healthcare system perpetuates discrimination based on race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, age, socioeconomic status, and where one lives, which is inherent to profit-based healthcare systems; and
WHEREAS, People of color make up 42 percent of the nonelderly U.S. population, yet account for over half of the total nonelderly uninsured population; and
WHEREAS, Latinx and Black Americans have significantly higher uninsured rates (19 percent and 11 percent respectively) compared to white Americans; and
WHEREAS, Uninsured Black Americans often delay preventative care and obtain more expensive emergency treatment as a last resort; and
WHEREAS, Latinx Americans are the most uninsured population in the United States today, and comprise much of the workforce that is unable to get health coverage through their jobs; and
WHEREAS, Medicaid, which is a lifeline for many people of color and low-income patients, is not accepted at many hospitals and doctors’ offices, leaving many without access to necessary care; and
WHEREAS, Black maternal and prenatal health access remains at crisis levels; and
WHEREAS, In the for-profit healthcare system, racial bias mars the entirety of American healthcare, and patients need to be able to get the care they seek when it is appropriate and convenient for them. Communities of color need a healthcare system that rectifies these long-standing structural biases, and Medicare for All is that system; and
WHEREAS, Medical debt remains a glaring issue for Black Americans with nearly one in three Black Americans aged 18 to 64 having past-due medical bills; and
WHEREAS, Ineffectively regulated costs of medical care create such a burden for Americans that one-third of all GoFundMe online fundraising campaigns are created to assist with paying medical bills; and
WHEREAS, The inability to pay overwhelming medical bills continues to be a leading
cause of personal bankruptcy in America; and

WHEREAS, Americans frequently choose to forego healthcare because they cannot afford it; and

WHEREAS, The uninsured rate in the United States has risen to over 31 million, with the greatest increases among women, young adults, and people currently earning lower than average wages; and

WHEREAS, Medicare for All would support the health and economic security of patients of color at all income levels, including finally providing full healthcare coverage for all reproductive health services, as well as controlling the costs of prescription drugs; and

WHEREAS, Medicare for All will eliminate the idea of “out of network” providers; and

WHEREAS, Passing the Medicare for All Act will be difficult because of the inertia of history along with the present-day forces that oppose a racially equitable healthcare system, namely members of Congress, who are influenced by lobbyists pushing a for-profit healthcare machine and/or committed to perpetuating a right-wing agenda; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby urgently requests that Rhode Island's Congressional Delegation supports and prioritizes passage of H.R. 1976, the Medicare for All Act of 2021, and its Senate companion bill. We moreover urge our delegation to co-sponsor, publicly champion, and whip votes sufficient for the passage of the Medicare for All Act of 2021 into law; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Rhode Island Congressional Delegation.

==========
LC004392
==========