

RESOLUTION NO. **20130214-**

WHEREAS, The US Supreme Court determined that not all provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) are mandatory and that states may, at their option, choose not to implement certain provisions of the Act; and

WHEREAS, one of the optional provisions is expanding Medicaid to include individuals and families with incomes of up to 133% of the federal poverty level or less; and

WHEREAS, Governor Perry has recently indicated that Texas will decline expanded Medicaid coverage, a decision that could cost the state, counties and municipalities billions of dollars in federal aid; and

WHEREAS, Texas has the highest rate of uninsured (24%) and underinsured in the country and more than 230,000 residents, almost 23% of Travis County, are currently uninsured; and

WHEREAS, expanding Medicaid would ensure 1.5 million more Texans get the medical care they need and could potentially cut the number of uninsured in Travis County by almost half; and

WHEREAS, the federal government will cover the entire cost of expanding Medicaid for the first three years, and will pay no less than 90% of the total cost thereafter, and

WHEREAS, from 2014-2017 economic growth and expansion in our state will bring \$27.2 billion in federal revenue to Texas while at the same time requiring just \$3.1 billion in state investment; and

WHEREAS, preventive care will become available for newly eligible Medicaid participants, creating a substantial cost savings for counties and municipalities who largely serve the uninsured through costly emergency room visits; and

WHEREAS, covering the uninsured means better premium value for Texans with private health insurance by lowering costs for everyone; and

WHEREAS, Texas hospitals provide over \$5 billion a year in uncompensated care, local county taxes help pay for much of this care, and insuring more Texans through Medicaid will lower county costs for this care;

WHEREAS, in times when dollars are stretched thin to meet the current demands for healthcare, it is in the best interest of every municipality and county in Texas to support a bigger infusion of federal dollars into our state; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City of Austin supports and endorses the full expansion of Medicaid coverage to all eligible adults in Texas who are living at or below 133% of the Federal Poverty Level, plus 5% income disregard, in accordance with the provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City of Austin's Legislative Agenda is hereby amended to include support for Medicaid expansion in Texas.