



City of Northampton

MASSACHUSETTS

In the Year 2025

25.252 A Resolution in Support of “An Act Establishing Medicare for All in Massachusetts” **(H.1405/S.860)**

Upon the recommendation of Councilors Jeremy Dubs, Rachel Maiore, Stanley W. Moulton III, and Quaverly H. Rothenberg

Be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Northampton in City Council assembled, as follows:

WHEREAS, access to affordable, quality health care is a human right and a fundamental component of a decent and just society; and

WHEREAS, the United States remains one of the few countries in the world that does not fully support that right by offering universal, publicly funded health care to its residents (1); and

WHEREAS, the rapidly rising cost of health insurance coverage (2,3) and the shifting of healthcare costs to the insured in the form of copays, deductibles, and co-insurance force many Massachusetts residents to defer care (4) for conditions that benefit from early diagnosis and treatment; and

WHEREAS, vulnerable communities are disproportionately impacted by hospital medical debt, with female, Black and lower-income patients having a higher likelihood of incurring such debt (5); and

WHEREAS, there is a severe shortage of primary medical care physicians in Western Massachusetts (6) in part due to the onerous, time-burdening processes such as “prior authorizations” that add to physician costs and that doctors must complete as mandated by private health insurance companies that are more concerned with increasing their profits than providing necessary medical care; and

WHEREAS, the bankruptcy of the Steward Health Care hospitals in Massachusetts, and unfair profit-driven practices of insurance corporations (7) have increased awareness and mobilized Massachusetts residents against our for-profit healthcare system; and

WHEREAS, In November 2024, a non-binding ballot initiative (Question 6) regarding Medicare for All passed in favor of adopting a single-payer health care system in all 11 legislative districts where it was on the ballot (8); and

WHEREAS, the continued costs of employee-paid health insurance negatively affects our local economy by forcing businesses and municipalities to reduce staffing, defer raises, and hire part-time workers (9); and

WHEREAS, the current health-care system results in 31% of every health-care dollar going to paperwork, CEO salaries, and profit, while Medicare covers 60 million residents and operates with just 3% overhead (10); and

WHEREAS, the City of Northampton will spend nearly \$14 million on employee/retiree health insurance during fiscal year 2025 (11.32% of its total general budget); and

WHEREAS, the City of Northampton projects a cost of at least \$15,421,542 for employee/retiree health insurance for fiscal year 2026 (a 10.6% estimated increase from fiscal year 2025 compared to prior 3% to 4% annual increases) (11); and

WHEREAS, the City of Northampton would save approximately \$6.6 million annually on employee/retiree health insurance with single-payer health care (12); and

WHEREAS, an alternative system that provides quality, affordable health care for all would remedy the unfairness, unevenness, and disparity of the current healthcare system and advance the goals of increasing access, improving quality and containing costs; and

WHEREAS, Medicare for All, or single-payer health care, is a system that would guarantee inpatient and outpatient medical, dental, vision, and nursing home care for all Massachusetts residents regardless of income, employment status, or preexisting conditions, and without copayments, deductibles or cost sharing (12) by establishing the Massachusetts Health Care Trust Fund that centralizes health care financing and cost control, while maintaining the private delivery of health care; and

WHEREAS, “An Act Establishing Medicare for all in Massachusetts” (H.1405/S.860) (13) is a bill in the state Legislature, with 73 cosponsors during the last session of the Massachusetts House and Senate, including Northampton Rep. Lindsay Sabadosa who is the lead sponsor, and Northampton State Sen. Jo Comerford; and

WHEREAS, Massachusetts consistently has been a leader and innovator in providing quality health coverage for its residents, and the Northampton City Council has supported these initiatives by, for example, unanimously approving on Aug. 17, 2017, a prior resolution supporting “An Act Establishing Medicare for All in Massachusetts.” (14)

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Northampton City Council remains committed to providing high-quality health care to city employees and retirees, and to making such health care available to all residents of Massachusetts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council supports the passage of “An Act Establishing Medicare for All In Massachusetts”; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council commends and supports state Rep. Lindsay Sabadosa, for being the lead House cosponsor of H.1405, and state Sen. Jo Comerford for being a cosponsor of S.860;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the administrative assistant to the City Council shall cause a copy of this resolution to be sent to Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey; Treasurer Deborah B. Goldberg; the cochairs of the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing; Senate President Karen B. Spilka; Speaker of the House Ronald Mariano; Senator James Eldridge, current lead Senate sponsor; Senator Jo Comerford; Representative Lindsay Sabadosa, current co-lead House sponsor; U.S. Representative Jim McGovern; U.S. Senators Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey; and Northampton Mayor Gina-Louse Sciarra.

REFERENCES

1) <https://www.nasdaq.com/article/all-the-countries-that-have-universal-healthcare-c-m757323>

2) <https://www.boston.com/culture/health/2014/03/26/cost-of-health-care-a-burden-f>

or-mass-residents/

3) <https://www.wbur.org/news/2024/12/30/massachusetts-health-insurance-costs-2025-increase>

4) <https://www.mma.org/delayed-health-care-has-clinical-and-financial-impacts/>

5) <https://www.mass.gov/news/ag-campbell-issues-2024-health-care-cost-trends-report-examining-health-care-affordability-in-massachusetts>

6) <https://www.gazettenet.com/Dearth-of-primary-care-doctors-continue-in-Pioneer-Valley-56085848>

7) <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jan/26/us-health-insurance-system-doctors>

8) <https://masscare.org/ballot-question-2024/>

9) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PbchNm_SrxU (“Healthcare at the Tipping Point”)

10) [https://pnhpminnesota.org/single-payer-faqs/#:~:text=Won't%20this%20just%20be,save%20over%20\\$300%20billion%20annually](https://pnhpminnesota.org/single-payer-faqs/#:~:text=Won't%20this%20just%20be,save%20over%20$300%20billion%20annually)

11) <https://northamptonma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/29408/January-2025-PPT-1-30-25-FINAL>

12) <https://masscare.org/muni-calc/>

13) https://masscare.org/legislation/?link_id=3&can_id=0a36d0196c081f6ab5c5d8b1238f62f9&source=email-first-2025-meeting-refiling-the-single-payer-bill-2&email_

14) <https://www.northamptonma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/9203/17372-Medicare-for-All-Resolution-?bidId=>

In City Council, June 5, 2025

Adopted in Final Reading on Roll Call Vote of 9 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent

Attest: Lana Krutyn, Clerk of Council

Passed final reading and enrolled.

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Northampton City Council on June 5, 2025

Per Charter Section 3-6, non-binding resolutions are not required to be presented to the Mayor for approval.

Attest: Lana Krutyn, Clerk of Council