

# MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(14)

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**TO:** Honorable Chairwoman Audrey M. Edmonson  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

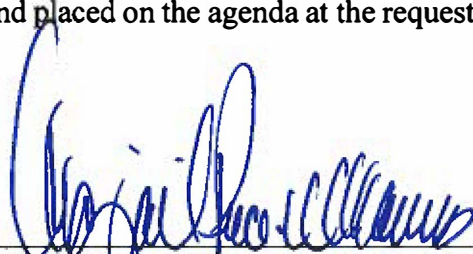
**DATE:** April 7, 2020

**FROM:** Abigail Price-Williams  
County Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Resolution urging the Florida  
Legislature to approve Medicaid  
expansion for certain qualified  
adults under the age of 65 in  
an effort to address the public  
health emergency caused by  
coronavirus disease 2019  
(COVID-19)

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The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Chairwoman Audrey M. Edmonson.



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Abigail Price-Williams  
County Attorney

APW/smm



**MEMORANDUM**  
(Revised)

**TO:** Honorable Chairwoman Audrey M. Edmonson  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

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Please note any items checked.

- "3-Day Rule" for committees applicable if raised
- 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing
- 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing
- Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget
- Budget required
- Statement of fiscal impact required
- Statement of social equity required
- Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Mayor's report for public hearing
- No committee review
- Applicable legislation requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3's present \_\_\_\_, 2/3 membership \_\_\_\_, 3/5's \_\_\_\_, unanimous \_\_\_\_, CDMP 7 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3)(h) or (4)(c) \_\_\_\_, CDMP 2/3 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3)(h) or (4)(c) \_\_\_\_, or CDMP 9 vote requirement per 2-116.1(4)(c)(2) \_\_\_\_) to approve
- Current information regarding funding source, index code and available balance, and available capacity (if debt is contemplated) required

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Mayor

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(14)

Veto \_\_\_\_\_

4-7-20

Override \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO APPROVE MEDICAID EXPANSION FOR CERTAIN QUALIFIED ADULTS UNDER THE AGE OF 65 IN AN EFFORT TO ADDRESS THE PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY CAUSED BY CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

**WHEREAS**, in December 2019, a new coronavirus, known as SARS-CoV-2, that causes an infectious disease named coronavirus disease 2019 (“COVID-19”) was first identified in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 30, 2020, the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee of the World Health Organization (“WHO”) declared the outbreak a “public health emergency of international concern”; and

**WHEREAS**, since its initial identification, COVID-19 has spread rapidly across the world and cases of COVID-19, as well as mortalities from it, are increasing by the day; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 1, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order No. 20-51 in response to COVID-19, directing the State Health Officer and Surgeon General to declare a public health emergency in the state of Florida and directing the State Health Officer to take any action necessary to protect the public health and to follow guidelines established by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) to control the spread of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 9, 2020, Governor DeSantis issued Executive Order No. 20-52, declaring a state of emergency in the state of Florida, designating the Director of the Division of Emergency Management as the State Coordinating Officer for the duration of the emergency, and delegating the State Coordinating Officer with the authority to exercise the powers delineated in §§ 252.36(5) – (10), Florida Statutes, as needed to meet the emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 11, 2020, given the rapid spread and severity of the virus, the WHO declared COVID-19 a pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 12, 2020, Mayor Carlos A. Gimenez declared a local state of emergency for Miami-Dade County invoking his authority to issue orders to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the community, including possibly imposing a curfew and closing certain businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, on a daily basis, the Florida Department of Health is reporting increases in confirmed cases of Florida residents with COVID-19 and in deaths from COVID-19 in Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, in an effort to reduce the possibility of mass exposure in Florida, Walt Disney World and Universal Studios announced closures from March 16, 2020 through the end of the month, schools and universities have temporarily closed in favor of remote learning options, and numerous other large social and community events and gatherings have been cancelled as precautionary measures to protect the community; and

**WHEREAS**, similarly, on a national front, professional and college sports leagues, including, but not limited to, the National Basketball Association, Major League Baseball, National Collegiate Athletic Association, National Hockey League, and the Professional Golfers' Association have suspended operations; and

**WHEREAS**, businesses and government offices are continuing to announce new closures daily to ensure the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare as a result of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, without access to health care coverage, many Floridians who may be infected with COVID-19 may be reluctant to seek treatment and could expose others to the deadly virus; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the report “Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2018,” issued by the United States Census Bureau (“Census Bureau”), 13 percent of Florida residents do not have health insurance, making Florida the fourth highest state in the nation for uninsured residents; and

**WHEREAS**, Florida’s uninsured rate exceeds the national average of 8.5 percent by more than 50 percent; and

**WHEREAS**, the report also provides that the number of uninsured residents in Florida increased from approximately 2.68 million in 2017 to roughly 2.73 million in 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, uninsured Floridians account for nearly 10 percent of the reported 27.5 million Americans who did not have health insurance in 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, Medicaid is a joint federal and state program that provides health coverage for some low-income people, families, and children, pregnant women, the elderly, and people with disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the 111th United States Congress passed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (“Affordable Care Act”) and on March 23, 2010, the President signed the bill into law; and

**WHEREAS**, one of the key components of the Affordable Care Act required states to expand Medicaid to a minimum national eligibility threshold of 139 percent of the federal poverty level effective January 1, 2014; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Supreme Court did not uphold this provision, which essentially gave states the option to expand Medicaid; and

**WHEREAS**, although the Affordable Care Act authorizes Medicaid expansion, which in effect would provide health care coverage to a greater number of Floridians, to date the Florida Legislature has opted not to do so; and

**WHEREAS**, in fact, in 2013, 2014, 2015, 2019, and 2020, bills that would have authorized Medicaid expansion were filed for consideration by the Florida Legislature, but were not heard or did not pass; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the Census Bureau, Florida is one of only eight states in the nation that has not expanded Medicaid; and

**WHEREAS**, Medicaid expansion would provide more low-income Floridians with access to vital health care coverage at this critical time in history; and

**WHEREAS**, additionally, the Legislature may call a special session to address issues related to COVID-19, as well as the expected economic downturn, and resulting impacts on Floridians and corresponding reductions in state revenue; and

**WHEREAS**, such a special session would provide the Legislature with an opportunity to expand Medicaid and draw down significant federal funds, which would not only provide millions of Floridians with access to health care coverage, but also a funding boost for the economy; and

**WHEREAS**, in light of COVID-19 and for public health purposes, it is necessary that Floridians who are most in need have access to health insurance; and

**WHEREAS**, further, the benefits of expanded Medicaid eligibility would not only serve those who would obtain health care coverage, but the general public as well because the number of uninsured people would decrease and the number of people who receive health care treatment would likely result in a corresponding increase, which among other things, diminishes the likelihood of transmitting communicable diseases such as COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, in consideration of the public health emergency caused by COVID-19 and the pressing need many Floridians have for health care coverage, this Board urges the Florida Legislature to expand Medicaid eligibility,

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**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,** that this Board:

**Section 1.** Urges the Florida Legislature to approve Medicaid expansion for all adults under the age of 65 with incomes equal to or below 138 percent of the federal poverty level in an effort to address the public health emergency caused by coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

**Section 2.** Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit certified copies of this resolution to the Governor, Senate President, House Speaker, the Chair and Members of the Miami-Dade County State Legislative Delegation, and the Secretary of the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration.

**Section 3.** Directs the County's state lobbyists to advocate for the action set forth in section 1 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2020 State Legislative Package to include this item and to include this item in the 2021 State Legislative Package when it is presented to the Board.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Chairwoman Audrey M. Edmonson. It was offered by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Audrey M. Edmonson, Chairwoman	
Rebeca Sosa, Vice Chairwoman	
Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.	Daniella Levine Cava
Jose "Pepe" Diaz	Sally A. Heyman
Eileen Higgins	Barbara J. Jordan
Joe A. Martinez	Jean Monestime
Dennis C. Moss	Sen. Javier D. Souto
Xavier L. Suarez	

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 7<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2020. This resolution shall become effective upon the earlier of (1) 10 days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the County Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board, or (2) approval by the County Mayor of this resolution and the filing of this approval with the Clerk of the Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
BY ITS BOARD OF  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as  
to form and legal sufficiency.



Shanika A. Graves