

RESOLUTION 2022-06

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT EFFORTS TO EXPAND HEALTHCARE AND HEALTH INSURANCE RESOURCES FOR ALL NORTH CAROLINIANS

WHEREAS, North Carolina has the opportunity to expand affordable health insurance to up to 600,000 people; and,

WHEREAS, more than 300,000 of these individuals and families have no other affordable insurance options available to them, which has created a coverage gap; and,

WHEREAS, the development of a North Carolina strategy for closing this coverage gap in our state will allow us to strengthen and protect our economic prosperity and preserve the freedoms and opportunities that are cherished by the people and businesses of our state; and,

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

WHEREAS, providing health insurance coverage will help people, especially women of child bearing age, gain access to the care they need, which improves health outcomes; and,

WHEREAS, closing the coverage gap will provide health care for a significant number of very low-income, childless adults who are not eligible for any state or federal health care assistance; and

WHEREAS, closing the coverage gap will promote access to behavioral and physical health therapy and treatment for low-income citizens struggling with mental illness, developmental disabilities, and substance use disorders; and

WHEREAS, a North Carolina plan to close the coverage gap could create as many as 37,200 new jobs statewide, according to a study by the Center for Health Policy Research at The George Washington University; and,

WHEREAS, closing the coverage gap in North Carolina will bring \$11.7 billion in federal funding to the state in the first three years of enacting a solution; and,

WHEREAS, closing the coverage gap could generate \$500 million in additional state revenue, and \$100 million in additional county revenue in the first three years of enacting a solution, due to the additional economic and job growth; and,

WHEREAS, closing the coverage gap could strengthen the economy and bolster job growth in counties all across North Carolina, as well as improve health access for almost half a million North Carolinians; and,

WHEREAS, we the people of this diocese, baptized into the death and resurrection of our Lord have willingly committed to seek and serve Christ in all persons and to strive for justice and peace among all people, believing that when we work to ease the burdens of our neighbors who are struggling the most, we are caring for God and we believe we are called to follow our God by doing good, not only within the walls of our churches, but by seeking justice in in our communities, state and nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT this 139th Convention of the Episcopal

Diocese of East Carolina supports seeking a North Carolina strategy for closing the coverage gap for all North Carolina citizens earning at or below 138 percent of the Federal Poverty Level, in accordance with provisions of the federal law; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the convention directs the secretary of convention to convey copies of this resolution to the Governor, Lt Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the General Assembly and Care4Carolina.

Adopted the 4th day of June, 2022 by the 139th Convention of the Diocese of East Carolina.

Shurley Ray Weddle
Secretary of Convention