

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA, URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO DISCUSS AND ENACT A HEALTHCARE EXPANSION SOLUTION TO ENABLE THE STATE OF FLORIDA TO ACCEPT \$51 BILLION DOLLARS OF FEDERAL HEALTHCARE FUNDING AND EXTEND HEALTHCARE COVERAGE TO FLORIDA'S LOW-INCOME WORKING POOR DURING THE 2015 LEGISLATIVE SESSION; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, local government is charged with the responsibility of providing its citizens a good quality of life, including infrastructure and access to appropriate services; and

WHEREAS, Florida has one of the highest uninsured populations in the country, with nearly four million state residents, representing 20 percent of the State population; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that Monroe County has 16,638 uninsured citizens representing 27.5% of the County population; and

WHEREAS, according to a March 2015 Report released by Florida Legal Services, Inc., Florida counties are expected to lose almost \$2 billion in Low-Income Pool (LIP) and Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital Program (DSH) funds this year, which may result in a \$1 billion expected shortfall in the state budget; and

WHEREAS, the loss of these funds threatens the viability of safety-net hospitals and facilities, and access to affordable, quality health care for both the insured and uninsured;

WHEREAS, the cost of uncompensated care for Florida's uninsured already falls to businesses and insured citizens through escalating insurance premium and health care costs; and

WHEREAS, the \$51 billion in federal funds are Florida's taxpayer dollars, and accepting these funds will return essential funds to Florida and more than offset the expected shortfall in the general fund; and

WHEREAS, accepting federal funds and extending health care coverage will provide access to earlier and more cost-effective treatment options than emergency rooms, include preventative medicine and mental health care, and result in a healthier and more productive citizenry, workforce and community; and

WHEREAS, accepting the federal funds will build and support business and industry, create new jobs in the state, help Florida businesses avoid over \$200 million in annual Federal health care penalties, and assure a healthier Florida economy; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission strongly supports accepting the federal funds and extending health care coverage to approximately one million uninsured, working Floridians;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1: That the City Commission of the City of Key West urges the Florida Legislature to open discussions to find a unique, flexible Florida solution for accepting the \$51 billion of federal funds available, and to extend health care coverage to Florida's low-income working poor during the 2015 Legislative Session.

Section 2: That the City Clerk is hereby authorized to transmit a certified copy of this Resolution to Representative Raschein, Senator Bullard, Governor Rick Scott and members of the House and Senate leadership.

Section 3: That this Resolution shall go into effect immediately upon its passage and adoption and authentication by the signature of the Presiding Officer and the Clerk of the Commission.

Passed and adopted by the City Commission at a meeting held this _____ day of _____, 2015.

Authenticated by the Presiding Officer and Clerk of the Commission on _____ day of _____, 2015.

Filed with the Clerk on _____, 2015.

Mayor Craig Cates	_____
Vice Mayor Mark Rossi	_____
Commissioner Teri Johnston	_____
Commissioner Clayton Lopez	_____
Commissioner Billy Wardlow	_____
Commissioner Jimmy Weekley	_____
Commissioner Tony Yaniz	_____

CRAIG CATES, MAYOR

ATTEST:

CHERYL SMITH, CITY CLERK