

DRAFT

Wilmington, Delaware
April 7, 2022

#

Sponsor:

**Council
Member
Cabrer**

WHEREAS, as many as forty percent of deaths in the United States are avoidable with the proper preventative care. Many U.S. citizens avoid preventative care due to high costs and the lack of health insurance. The delay of preventive care puts vulnerable people at a higher risk of medical complications and more costly emergency visits. Sixty-four percent of Americans report that \$400 in unexpected expenses can cause financial hardship, which Immigrant households (both documented and undocumented) are especially vulnerable because they are typically lower-wage earners than U.S. citizens; and

WHEREAS, an estimated forty-six percent of undocumented immigrants and thirty-five percent of undocumented children do not have health insurance in the United States, compared to five percent of U.S. household children; and

WHEREAS, in Delaware, as many as five thousand children in low-income households lack health insurance, despite meeting the CHIP or Medicaid income threshold. In the City of Wilmington, six percent of the population is foreign-born. The current median household income for City residents is \$45,032, which is lower than Delaware's median household income of \$68,287 and the national average of \$62,843. Income is a crucial determinant of the affordability of unexpected expenses; and

WHEREAS, there is precedent for ensuring undocumented children in other states, including Oregon, California, Illinois, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Vermont, New York, and Washington; and

WHEREAS, leveraging the preexisting infrastructure of Medicaid would limit the logistical challenges of developing a separate program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON that the Wilmington City Council strongly urges the members of the Delaware General Assembly to support House Bill 317 to establish a medical coverage program to ensure children who are undocumented (or otherwise not insured) and meet income thresholds, have access to medical coverage.

Passed by City Council,

ATTEST: _____

City Clerk

SYNOPSIS: This Resolution urges the members of the Delaware General Assembly to support House Bill 317 that will create a health coverage system to ensure Delaware children are insured regardless of undocumented status or other disqualifying factors.