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CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-11

INTRODUCED BY:

Councilor Renee D. Villarreal

Councilor Carol Romero-Wirth

A RESOLUTION

IN SUPPORT OF THE NEW MEXICO HEALTH SECURITY ACT.

WHEREAS, the Governing Body adopted Resolution 2008-98 on November 12, 2008 urging the New Mexico State Legislature to pass the Health Security Act (“HSA”), most recently presented as HB 101 during the 2017 Legislative Session; and

WHEREAS, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act was the first successful national effort to address affordable health care coverage; and

WHEREAS, according to the US Census Bureau, the number of uninsured residents in New Mexico has substantially decreased due to the opportunities for coverage through the Medicaid Expansion program and the exchanges, although 18.7% of Santa Fe residents under 65 remain uninsured; and

WHEREAS, the Affordable Care Act has reduced the overall number of uninsured residents in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, according to the Commonwealth Fund State Health System Ranking, uninsured New Mexican adults ages 19-64 have decreased from 28% in 2013 to 13% in 2018 as a

1 result of opportunities for health coverage available through the Medicaid expansion program and
2 the health exchanges; and

3 **WHEREAS**, according to a Community Health Profile prepared for CHRISTUS ST.
4 Vincent and Santa Fe County, the following statistics apply to Santa Fe County:

5 1. there are currently 28,300 Santa Fe County residents who lack health
6 insurance coverage;

7 2. almost 19% of adults in Santa Fe County who work full time and year
8 round are uninsured;

9 3. over 60% of uninsured children live in households with incomes that do
10 not qualify them for Medicaid;

11 4. almost two thirds of Santa Fe County's foreign born residents – a
12 percentage that is higher in Santa Fe County than in New Mexico overall – and over three
13 quarters of non-citizens are uninsured; and

14 5. 3,400 children in Santa Fe County lack health insurance; and

15 **WHEREAS**, recent 2017 US Census data shows 13% of those living in Santa Fe County
16 are uninsured; and

17 **WHEREAS**, Section 1332 of the Affordable Care Act allows states to receive waivers
18 for state innovation in health care, which enables states to develop alternatives that may be more
19 appropriate to their circumstances; and

20 **WHEREAS**, health care premiums, insurance deductibles, patient co-payments, and the
21 cost of pharmaceutical drugs continue to increase; and

22 **WHEREAS**, rising health care costs remain a serious problem that impacts New
23 Mexico's and local government's budgets, as well as family budgets; and

24 **WHEREAS**, health care has become a major issue of concern to the electorate; and

25 **WHEREAS**, numerous studies, including two in the State of New Mexico (Mathematica

1 Heal Reform Comparison Study (2007) and Lewin Health Reform Comparison Study (1994)),
2 show that a plan that would enable our residents to join one health risk pool would reap the
3 benefits of economies of scale, substantially contain costs, reduce administrative complexity and
4 uncompensated care, and create a more stable health care system that would benefit all residents
5 of the State of New Mexico; and

6 **WHEREAS**, elected and federal officials in Washington, D.C., are giving the clear
7 message that states need to take the lead in health care reform; and

8 **WHEREAS**, the HSA is a homegrown, New Mexico plan that has been developed over
9 many years with input from diverse sectors from all over the State; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the HSA would enable New Mexico to set up its own Health Security Plan
11 (“Plan”), like a cooperative, that covers most New Mexicans and ensures that all New Mexicans
12 will have comprehensive, affordable, and quality health coverage regardless of age, employment,
13 or health status; and

14 **WHEREAS**, projected savings from this Plan will enable New Mexico to invest in
15 needed health infrastructure and services, including mental and behavior health care services; and

16 **WHEREAS**, decreasing the percentage of State, County, and City expenditures on health
17 care will free up funds to be spent on other critical needs such as economic development,
18 education, public safety, and infrastructure; and

19 **WHEREAS**, over the years, 160 New Mexico organizations and 35 cities and counties,
20 representing a broad cross-section of New Mexicans from all parts of the state, have endorsed the
21 HSA.

22 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE**
23 **CITY OF SANTA FE** that the City of Santa Fe urges the New Mexico State Legislature to adopt
24 the Health Security Act.

25 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this Resolution be forward to the Santa

1 Fe Legislative Delegation.

2 PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 30th day of January, 2019.

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ALAN M. WEBBER, MAYOR

7 ATTEST:

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10 YOLANDA Y. VIGIL, CITY CLERK

11 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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14 ERIN K. McSHERRY, CITY ATTORNEY

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25 *M/Legislation/Resolutions 2019/2019-11 Health Security Act Support*