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RESOLUTION TO PROTECT MEDICAID IN ILLINOIS

WHEREAS, the state administration in Springfield has proposed a 2016 budget that would slash Medicaid funding by \$1.5 billion, a bigger cut than any state has ever enacted in a single fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid has improved the health of Illinois communities by lowering child and adult mortality rates, expanding the use of prenatal care and other preventive services, cutting depression rates, extending the lives of people with HIV, drastically reducing out-of-pocket medical expenses for low-income families, and achieving countless other health advances; and

WHEREAS, approximately one million Chicago residents (out of a population of 2.7 million) have Medicaid coverage in some form; and

WHEREAS, the budget proposal would impose a devastating human cost on Illinois residents by compromising or eliminating funding for adult dental care, podiatry, renal dialysis, hemophilia care, safety net hospitals, and mental health rehabilitation facilities, among other things; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid in Illinois is already in the midst of a dramatic transformation, with a greater role for managed care entities as well as innovative accountable care and care coordination entities; and

WHEREAS, the proposed cuts would undermine this transformation midstream by slashing reimbursement rates and potentially leading many accountable care and coordinated care entities to fold, disrupting care for hundreds of thousands of Medicaid recipients; and

WHEREAS, Illinois counts on Medicaid as a stabilizing force in the economy and receives federal matching funds for state Medicaid funding; and

WHEREAS, a 5% cut in federal Medicaid spending in Illinois would result in the loss of an estimated 9,280 jobs and \$1.2 billion in economic activity; and

WHEREAS, any temporary fiscal gains from Medicaid cuts would be offset by the long-term costs of increased emergency room visits, acute care services, and unemployment payouts; and

WHEREAS, these cuts would cause irreparable harm to the health and well-being of millions of Illinois residents, leading many to lose their lives prematurely; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Chicago Board of Health calls on the Illinois General Assembly to maintain full funding for Medicaid. There must be no reduction in Medicaid eligibility, covered services, or reimbursement rates to healthcare providers and insurers. There must also be no changes that would make it more difficult for Illinois residents to access Medicaid benefits or make it more likely that benefits will be erroneously denied.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution will be delivered to Illinois Senate President John Cullerton, Senate Minority Leader Christine Radogno, House Speaker Michael Madigan, House Minority Leader Jim Durkin, and the Illinois General Assembly's key appropriations committee members including Sen. Heather Steans, Sen. Matt Murphy, Sen. Donne Trotter, Rep. Greg Harris, Rep. Patricia Bellock, and Rep. Elizabeth Hernandez. Copies will also go to agency directors including Felicia Norwood (HFS) and Dr. Nirav Shah (IDPH).

Dated this 15th Day of April, 2015.



Carolyn C. Lopez, M.D.
President, Chicago Board of Health