RESOLUTION OF INSERT COUNTY, GEORGIA TO REQUEST THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND GOVERNOR OF GEORGIA

# ACCEPT FEDERAL FUNDING AND IMPLEMENT THE FULL EXPANSION OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE AS PROVIDED BY THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

WHEREAS, the INSERT County Board of Commissioners represents all the citizens of INSERT County, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, ### people in INSERT County do not have health insurance coverage and would be eligible for coverage if Georgia accepted federal funding to fully expand Medicaid coverage to 138% FPL (federal poverty level); and

WHEREAS, under current state health care programs nearly 300,000 low-income Georgians fall in the healthcare coverage gap, making too much money to qualify for Medicaid but not earning enough to cover the premium costs for coverage obtained through the open marketplace and therefore, do not have access to comprehensive, affordable health insurance coverage to provide for personal wellbeing and financial stability; and

WHEREAS, research shows that many of those Georgians falling in the gap are veterans, farmers, part-time, hourly, and gig workers and their families, and a change in state policy would expand health care coverage options to meet the health care needs of these hard-working Georgians; and

WHEREAS, expanding Medicaid would be good for Georgia’s economy – creating more than 51,000 jobs in Georgia and boosting the state’s economic output by $9.4 billion on average each year, during the first three years of the expansion, by supporting the health care industry, jobs, and Georgia’s overall economy, dwarfing future projected costs to Georgiai; and

WHEREAS, closing the coverage gap by expanding Medicaid eligibility to 138% FPL provides state savings in child welfare and law enforcement costs and would provide additional financial benefits to the State of Georgia, including keeping $3.6 billion of Georgia’s federal tax dollars in state rather than sending these funds to other states for their healthcare funding use; and

WHEREAS, expanding Medicaid would give Georgia’s rural communities a lifeline they so desperately need, and could create more than 5,600 jobs for rural economies, and $862 million in new economic activity in Georgia’s rural communities during the first three yearsii. Rural hospitals in Georgia are struggling because they treat so many patients who lack health insurance and cannot afford high out-of-pocket costs. Nine rural hospitals have permanently closed since 2013iii. More than half of the remaining rural hospitals are financially vulnerable to closureiv; and

WHEREAS, expanding Medicaid would help the County of TKTKTK thrive. Medicaid expansion, through traditional expansion or a waiver program, would increase the number of insured members of our community, improve the financial footing of health care providers and hospitals who treat our residents, and bring new economic activity to our county. The improved finances of local health care providers and hospitals acts as an economic multiplier, creating community-based jobs, and buoying the hospitality, retail, transportation, and real estate sectors of our local economyv; and

WHEREAS, expanding Medicaid would benefit low-wage workers who are not offered health insurance from their employer, work multiple jobs or work in industries that are seasonal or have irregular hours; and

WHEREAS, closing the coverage gap could extend health insurance to nearly half of Georgia’s uninsured veterans, expanding coverage to 32,000 uninsured veterans and military spouses in our state and providing Georgia’s heroes with the health security they deserve vi.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the INSERT County, Georgia Board of Commissioners calls upon the General Assembly and the Governor of Georgia to accept federal funds and fully expand insurance coverage pursuant to the Affordable Care Act.

i Evangelakis, Peter. (2024). Regional Economic Models, Inc.: Economic Impacts of Medicaid Expansion in Georgia. <https://georgiahealthinitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Georgia-Medicaid-Expansion-Economic-Impact-Report-REMI-March-2024-.pdf>.

ii Georgia Health Initiative. (2024). Issue Brief: Georgia’s Projected Economic Growth from Medicaid Expansion. <https://bridgega.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/GeorgiaHealthInitiative-IssueBrief-032524.pdf>

iii Georgia Hospital Association. (2024). Georgia Hospital Closure List. <https://www.gha.org/Advocacy>

iv Scaturro, Michael. (2024). Georgia’s Rural Hospitals at Risk of Closure, Report Finds. <https://www.ajc.com/news/health-news/georgias-rural-hospitals-at-risk-of-closure-report-finds/CDFHQGKG45GWRLLOB5VMSQKPNE/>

v National Assoc. of Counties. (2018). Medicaid and Counties: Understanding the Program and Why it Matters to Counties. <https://naco.sharefile.com/share/view/s8033ae7eae8d4bcea5d48e63eeff44b6>

vi Gasparini, Dr. Don. (2024). Charlie Health: 10 States with the Most Uninsured Veterans—and How the Nation Compares. <https://www.charliehealth.com/research/states-with-the-most-uninsured-veterans>