

**Resolution to Kehillah Synagogue Board to Support Expansion of Medicaid in North Carolina
Approved by Board of Directors, March 2016**

Kehillah Values:

Gemilut Chasadim (Mutual Care); Derech Eretz (Respect); Tikkun Olam (Repairing the World)

Background:

In 2013 the North Carolina General Assembly and Governor Pat McCrory rejected available federal funds that would have provided health insurance to up and estimated 357,000 low income North Carolinians through expansion of the Medicaid program. In its January letter to the Governor, the Coalition for Health Care of North Carolina cited the following facts to support the need for Medicaid expansion:

- 1.6 million non-elderly North Carolinians have no health insurance (Kaiser Family Foundation).
- Between 455 and 1,145 North Carolinians who would be covered under Medicaid expansion will die each year because they lack health insurance (Harvard University and City University of New York).
- The cost of treating uninsured patients at Duke University Hospital alone exceeded \$40 million in 2012.
- Pungo Hospital in Belhaven, NC, has already closed and other rural hospitals are on the verge of closing because of uncompensated care.

In addition to insuring an estimated 357,000 people (Kaiser Family Foundation), Medicaid expansion would deliver the following benefits, according to the Coalition:

- Our state would save an estimated \$65 million over ten years (NC DHHS).
- More than 25,000 jobs in NC would be created by 2016 (Regional Economic Models, Inc.).
- \$21 billion would be generated in total business activity for NC from 2016 to 2020 (Cone Health Foundation).

The Kehillah Synagogue Social Action Committee supports the resolution below, which is modeled after a similar resolution by Judea Reform. If approved, we will request that the originator of the resolution, Health Care for All NC (501[c][3]), add the Kehillah to its growing list of faith-communities in support of Medicaid expansion, and the Committee will inform the Kehillah membership as well as the Governor, the leadership of the NC General Assembly, and the Orange County legislative delegation of its action.

Resolved:

WHEREAS, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act provides federal funding for states to expand Medicaid to all citizens earning less than 138 percent of the federal poverty level; and

WHEREAS, the Kaiser Family Foundation estimates that accepting Medicaid expansion would extend insurance coverage to 357,000 North Carolinians; and

WHEREAS, the NC Department of Health and Human Services estimates that Medicaid expansion would save the state approximately \$65 million over ten years; and

WHEREAS, the private economic forecasting company Regional Economic Models, Inc., projects that expanding Medicaid would create more than 25,000 jobs by 2016; and

WHEREAS, the American Academy of Actuaries estimates that refusing Medicaid expansion will increase private health insurance premiums by more than 2 percent; and

WHEREAS, the tax firm Jackson Hewitt estimates that refusing Medicaid expansion will cost North Carolina employers between \$65 million and \$98 million in fees; and

WHEREAS, a Harvard-based, state-to-state comparison of Medicaid's effects on mortality that appeared in the *New England Journal of Medicine* showed that coverage prevented 2,840 deaths annually among 500,000 covered adults; and

WHEREAS, the White House recently announced that the federal government would support 100% of Medicaid expansion for three full years and 90% thereafter; and

WHEREAS, Jewish scholars and texts argue that health care is not just an obligation for the patient and the doctor, but for society as well, and that health care was listed by Maimonides among the ten most important communal services that had to be offered by a city to its residents; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., said, "*Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane;*" and

WHEREAS, we believe all residents of North Carolina should have access to affordable, quality health care.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that Kehillah Synagogue urges the North Carolina General Assembly and the Governor to immediately accept federal funds to expand Medicaid in North Carolina.