

RESOLUTION NO. 1825

Yavapai County Resolution in Support of The Governor's Medicaid Plan

WHEREAS, the Voters of Arizona clearly and overwhelmingly expressed their will to provide health insurance coverage through AHCCCS for all Arizonans up to 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) both in 1996 and in 2000 through Prop. 204; and

WHEREAS, Prop. 204 relieved the county governments of their role in serving as the safety net for the medically needy/medically indigent, which was not a sustainable cost for the counties; and

WHEREAS, restoration of Prop. 204 is critical to county governments as the impact of the childless adult enrollment freeze has led to increased county costs and public safety concerns, such as increases in court ordered treatment, recidivism rates and use of the jail system as a means of addressing those who are in need of behavioral health treatment but unable to access care; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's plan is the best approach to honor the will of the voters, support county governments, and restore coverage to hundreds of thousands of Arizonans in need; and

WHEREAS, the cost of restoring Prop. 204 will be covered by a hospital assessment that will free up State funds, which can then be used for education or public safety; and

WHEREAS, the hospital assessment does not get passed on to the consumer but instead relieves hospitals of their uncompensated care burden for which we are all currently paying; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's plan further protects the State from any federal "bait and switch" by including a "circuit breaker" that will be triggered if the federal funding commitment falls below 80%;

WHEREAS, the federal guidance is very clear that such a circuit breaker is permissible and that Arizona is able to opt in or out of Medicaid restoration at any time; and

WHEREAS, while everyone is concerned about the federal deficit, not restoring Prop. 204 coverage to hundreds of thousands of Arizonans with cancer, trauma injuries, serious mental illness, etc., only hurts Arizonans and does nothing to reduce the federal deficit; and

WHEREAS, restoring Medicaid places Arizona as a leader in the national debate about Medicaid reform, which can have an impact on the federal deficit; and

WHEREAS, AHCCCS is the Gold Standard for Medicaid managed care and serves as the national model of how to deliver quality care at the lowest cost; and

WHEREAS, AHCCCS is also a shining example of *limited* government where care is managed by *private* health plans and provided by *private* physicians and hospitals, the very same ones we all see for our own care; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that we, Yavapai County do affirm and declare our support for Governor Brewer's plan to restore Medicaid; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that we, Yavapai County encourage the Legislators of the Arizona State House and Senate stand with the people of Arizona who have twice expressed their support for Governor's plan to provide AHCCCS coverage for Arizonans in need.

PASSED and Approved by the Yavapai County Board of Supervisors this 1st day of April, 2013.

A.G. "Chip" Davis
A.G. "Chip" Davis, Chairman

ATTEST:

/s/ Ana Wayman-Trujillo
Ana Wayman-Trujillo, Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Jack Fields
Deputy County Attorney