RESOLUTION TO EXPAND MEDICAID

Submitted by Health Care for all NC, [http://www.healthcareforallnc.org](http://www.healthcareforallnc.org/)

Board member Bill Murray, 919-240-7924

*WHEREAS, Chapel Hill prides itself on being the home of the University of North Carolina and UNC Hospitals; and*

*WHEREAS, the North Carolina Institute of Medicine estimates that more than 16 percent of Orange County residents under age 65, or more than 22,000 people, are uninsured as of 2010-11; and*

*WHEREAS, UNC Hospitals estimates that the cost of uncompensated care 2010-11 exceeded $325 million, including $117 million in charity care; and*

*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 North Carolina Department of Health & Human Services estimates that accepting Medicaid expansion would extend insurance coverage to more than 500,000 North Carolinians and 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 North Carolina jobs by 2016; and*

*WHEREAS, a peer-reviewed [epidemiological assessment](http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMsa1202099%22%20%5Cl%20%22t%3Darticle%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) of the health impact of providing Medicaid coverage to 500,000 uninsured shows it can save 2,840 lives annually, as well as reduce the untold anguish of neglected illness.*

*WHEREAS, the American Academy of Actuaries estimates that refusing Medicaid expansion will increase private 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, the Chapel Hill Town Council believes that all residents should have access to quality, affordable health coverage;*

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL THAT:*

*1) The Town Council urges the North Carolina General Assembly and the Governor to accept federal funds to expand Medicaid in North Carolina.*

*2) This resolution shall be effective on and after its passage, and shall be shared with the members of Orange County’s General Assembly delegation.*