

## RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF MEDICAID REFORM

The Republican Executive committee, by and through its undersigned Executive Board, does hereby make the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Medicaid entitlement spending takes up about 30.6% of the State Budget as of FY2015; and

Whereas, the Florida Legislature has imposed specific mandates on each of the counties in the State of Florida to pay for certain Medicaid expenses incurred by residents in their respective counties and these costs are deducted from Statewide sales tax revenues that are distributed to county governments to offset the burden of taxation on real property owners (ad valorem taxation) to fund local government services;

WHEREAS, Total Medicaid spending adds up to be about \$23.6 Billion and the State budget is about \$78 Billion as of FY2015; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Chamber of Commerce has also called for a 32% cap on Medicaid spending; and

WHEREAS, future growth of the Medicaid Entitlement Program is projected to eat up almost 33% of the budget in 2020 and continue growing from there; and

WHEREAS, the historical growth rate of the Medicaid Entitlement Program is roughly one half of one percent per year (.5%/year); and

WHEREAS, Medicaid's growth in the budget will eventually force the State to either spend less on other budgetary demands such as: Education, Public Safety, Environment, Infrastructure, promoting Economic Opportunities and other vital spending; and/or

WHEREAS, Medicaid's growth has already forced counties in Florida to spend less on other budgetary demands for essential local government services and has resulted in increases in local property taxes to cover Medicaid expenses incurred by residents in their counties as mandated by the State Legislature, and whenever these costs increase from year to year,

county governments are forced with a decision of cutting essential services or raising property taxes to cover local Medicaid expenses;

WHEREAS, Medicaid's growth in the State budget will eventually force the State to increase taxes at the State level and place even greater demands on local governments and real property owners in each of the counties in Florida;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that:

1. The Republican Executive Committee is entirely and absolutely supportive of Medicaid reform in the State of Florida, and supports the concept of block granting from the Federal government in order to give each state autonomy to administer its own Medicaid program to assure integrity of the program and reduce fraud, and to ensure that those who are truly in need of a safety net are the recipients of Medicaid funding, and to explore innovative mechanisms to deliver medical services to impoverished citizens and those individuals in genuine need of assistance without creating long term cycles of dependency;
2. The Republican Executive Committee would oppose legislative action to meet this cap by shifting additional Medicaid costs to counties, local governments and the property owners in each county who are the primary funding source of local government operating budgets;
3. The Republican Executive Committee is entirely and absolutely committed to limiting and capping Medicaid Entitlement Spending at 32% of the State Budget.
4. The Republican Executive Committee recognizes that at times, the State Legislature needs flexibility in the budget process, and prefers NOT to create a constitutional amendment that would impair the Legislature from doing its job efficiently.

5. The Republican Executive Committee further notes that the proposed Resolution is above the current spending percentage of the State Budget, and therefore gives some future growth to the Entitlement Program.
  
6. The Republican Executive Committee commends the Republican controlled Legislature and the Republican Governor for NOT expanding the Medicaid Entitlement Program under the Affordable Care Act, and acknowledging that expanding the program would be fiscally irresponsible.

This Resolution was presented and recommended to be passed by the Republican Executive Committee at its meeting on the day of February 23, 2016 and was presented and adopted by the Lake County Republican Executive Committee at its meeting on the day of March 22, 2016.

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Michael Levine  
Chairman

  
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Janet Smith  
Recording Secretary