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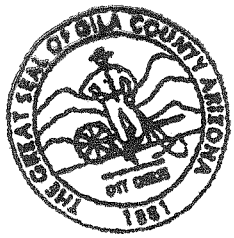

RESOLUTION NO. 13-04-04

A RESOLUTION OF THE GILA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS IN SUPPORT OF GOVERNOR BREWER'S PLAN TO RESTORE MEDICAID, AND TO ENCOURAGE THE LEGISLATORS OF THE ARIZONA STATE HOUSE AND SENATE TO STAND WITH THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE TWICE EXPRESSED THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE GOVERNOR'S PLAN TO PROVIDE AHCCCS COVERAGE FOR ARIZONANS IN NEED.

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

WHEREAS, Proposition 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 Proposition 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 Proposition 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%; and

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 Proposition 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 the Gila County Board of Supervisors does affirm and declare its support for Governor Brewer's plan to restore Medicaid; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Gila County Board of Supervisors encourages the Legislators of the Arizona State House and Senate to stand with the people of Arizona who have twice expressed their support for the Governor's plan to provide AHCCCS coverage for Arizonans in need.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 2nd day of April 2013, at Globe, Gila County, Arizona

Attest:

Marian Sheppard
Chief Deputy Clerk of the Board

GILA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Michael A. Pastor, Chairman

Approved as to form:

Bryan Chambers
Deputy Attorney Principal