



Established 1771

CHATHAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Jim Crawford, Chairman
 Mike Cross, Vice Chairman
 Diana Hales
 Karen Howard
 Walter Petty

COUNTY MANAGER

Charlie Horne

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Resolution of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners

IN FAVOR OF ACCEPTING FEDERAL FUNDS TO ASSURE THAT ALL NORTH CAROLINIANS HAVE ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE COVERAGE

May 4, 2015

WHEREAS, North Carolina now has the opportunity to extend affordable health coverage to over 300,000 people in our state; and

WHEREAS, the federal government will fund more than 90% of the costs for this extended coverage; and

WHEREAS, an analysis from the Center for Health Policy Research at George Washington University estimates that accepting the designated federal funds now would make health coverage available to more than 1,800 people in Chatham County by the end of 2016; and

WHEREAS, due to North Carolina declining to accept these funds, the same study finds that in 2014 and 2015 Chatham County alone is missing an opportunity to generate over 250 new jobs, \$12 million in new business activity and \$528 thousand in new county tax revenue; and

WHEREAS, between 2016 and 2020, accepting these funds would stimulate an additional \$50 million in Chatham County economic growth, \$80 million in business activity, and \$2.1 million in additional county tax revenues, as well as over 600 additional Chatham County jobs; and

WHEREAS, using statewide data, the same study estimates that, by accepting these funds, we would extend coverage to hundreds of thousands of North Carolinians, and between 2016 and 2020 we would bring in \$21 billion in federal funds and increase North Carolina state tax revenue by \$862 million; and

WHEREAS, a review by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Urban Institute found that, nationwide, for every \$1 that a state spends to extend coverage to these lowest income people, \$13.41 in Federal funds flow into the state; and

WHEREAS, studies in the *New England Journal of Medicine* and *Health Affairs* show that Medicaid coverage improves health outcomes, reduces mortality, and protects patients from catastrophic medical bills; and

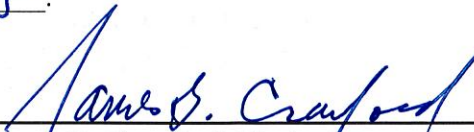
WHEREAS, the American Academy of Actuaries estimates that private insurance premiums will be lower in states that accept the funds to extend health coverage to their lowest income people and higher in states, like North Carolina, that do not; and

WHEREAS, the Chatham County Commissioners believe: 1) all Chatham County residents should have reasonable access to quality, affordable health coverage, and 2) Chatham County would benefit from the economic stimulus produced by these federal funds;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY THAT:

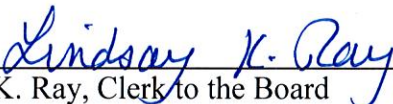
- 1) The Chatham County Commissioners urge the North Carolina General Assembly and the Governor to accept federal funds to assure that all North Carolinians have access to coverage for health care.
- 2) This resolution shall be effective on and after its passage.

Adopted, this the 4 day of May, 2015.



James G. Crawford, Chairman
Chatham County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:



Lindsay K. Ray, Clerk to the Board
Chatham County Board of Commissioners

