

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

23-341

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

December 1, 2020

To recognize and honor the District of Columbia Health Benefit Exchange Authority and to declare December 10, 2020 as “Get Covered 2021 District of Columbia Day”.

WHEREAS, the world is facing the most significant health crisis in modern history due to COVID-19, which has also caused a global economic downturn, impacting people and their ability to access health insurance.

WHEREAS, to slow the spread of COVID-19, individual and community health can be improved dramatically by covering your mouth and nose, wearing a mask, and practicing social distancing.

WHEREAS, affordable, quality health insurance coverage ensures access to care and makes a material difference in the health and well-being of the residents of the District of Columbia.

WHEREAS, access to health insurance is important because those without coverage are less likely to see a doctor when they become ill or for treatment of a chronic condition and forgo necessary care until their condition becomes intolerable.

WHEREAS, the Affordable Care Act was enacted in 2010 to expand access to affordable, meaningful coverage to lower the number of uninsured people and improve overall population health and well-being.

WHEREAS, the Affordable Care Act, which ensures critical consumer protections, and expands coverage to millions of Americans, is instrumental in dramatically reducing the number of uninsured people from 46.8 million in 2010 to 29.2 million in 2019.

WHEREAS, the DC Health Benefit Exchange Authority, established by the District of Columbia under the Affordable Care Act, provides access to affordable, quality coverage and care through DCHealthLink.com to residents of the District of Columbia and District small businesses and non-profits which is especially important during the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic conditions.

ENROLLED ORIGINAL

WHEREAS, approximately 100,000 people are covered through DC Health Link's individual and small business health insurance marketplaces in the District of Columbia and more than 80,000 District residents are covered through the District's expanded Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act;

WHEREAS, leaders from across America have joined to launch a national movement to help address the COVID-19 pandemic by helping people protect themselves and making sure everyone who can, enrolls in health care coverage.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "Get Covered 2021 District of Columbia Day Ceremonial Resolution of 2020"

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and honors the District of Columbia Health Benefit Exchange Authority for its untiring dedication to the citizens of the District of Columbia, declares December 10, 2020 as "Get Covered 2021 District of Columbia Day", and calls upon all residents to:

(1) Cover up for COVID by practicing the "3 W's" to reduce the risk of COVID-19 by wearing a mask, washing your hands, and watching your distance. Together these can help keep you and your community healthy and safe;

(2) Cover yourself and your family by renewing your coverage, if you haven't already, and telling friends to check DCHealthLink.com or call 1-855-532-5465 to see their health coverage options, whether they qualify for reduced premiums for private health insurance or free coverage through Medicaid; and

(3) Cover everyone by supporting efforts to increase access to affordable meaningful health care coverage for all people in the District of Columbia.

Sec 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.