

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 131

Approved March 20, 2023

WHEREAS, The COVID-19 pandemic led to an emergency measure in which states stopped the process of annual eligibility review of Medicaid enrollees, resulting in continual coverage of those enrolled in March 2020 or at any point during the pandemic, regardless of any changes in their income or circumstance; and

WHEREAS, This emergency measure will come to an end in April 2023, and states will restart the annual eligibility review process of all Medicaid enrollees, which is expected to cause millions of Americans to lose their health insurance coverage; and

WHEREAS, The Kaiser Family Foundation estimates that the 81,100 Rhode Island residents that enrolled in Medicaid during the pandemic could be at risk of losing healthcare coverage, with many unaware of the redetermination process even though they are still eligible for Medicaid; and

WHEREAS, People who have recently moved, children, people with disabilities, and older adults are particularly at risk of losing their Medicaid coverage; and



WHEREAS, The unwinding of Medicaid coverage in Providence could negatively impact the health and economic wellbeing of many households, exacerbating financial hardship brought on over the course of the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Minimizing the number of residents who lose their Medicaid benefits, even if they are still eligible, is crucial, and ensuring continual healthcare coverage for all residents is essential.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City of Providence calls on state and federal officials to ensure that the unwinding of Medicaid coverage is carried out in a way that minimizes the number of residents who lose their benefits, particularly those who are still eligible for Medicaid, and that those who no longer qualify for Medicaid are directed towards other coverage options. Furthermore, the City urges public officials to take proactive steps to ensure that all Medicaid enrollees are aware of the redetermination process and have access to the information they need to maintain their eligibility.

IN CITY COUNCIL

MAR 16 2023
READ AND PASSED


RACHEL M. MILLER, PRESIDENT

CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.


Mayor

Date: 3/20/23