Resolution
Medicaid Expansion

Delta Council urges state lawmakers, public officials, and other trade associations to review the economics of the expansion of Medicaid in the State of Mississippi through optional federal law outlined in the Affordable Care Act. After a full review of the information available, Delta Council believes that it is in the best interest of our rural economies, healthcare delivery systems, underserved individuals, and employers who provide health insurance coverage, to join the 38 other States in the Union that have opted to expand Medicaid to those with incomes below 138 percent of the federal poverty level.

We recognize the concern expressed among some lawmakers and public policy officials that expanding coverage – even with the federal match increased to 90-10 percent – *could* cause the State to lose money. However, an analysis by the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning confirms that the State of Mississippi would actually profit from the decision, increase employment by over 11,000 individuals in the healthcare and social services sector, provide over 220,000 unserved Mississippians – many of them working poor – coverage for the first time, substantially enhance the bottom line and ability to provide services for the healthcare field particularly in rural areas like ours, and drive down the cost of private insurance for employers. Furthermore, modifications in the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) in 2021 further enhanced the coverage ratios of States opting to expand Medicaid. To our knowledge, none of the 38 states that have adopted Medicaid Expansion since 2014 have experienced a loss of overall funding due to Medicaid expansion despite adding millions to healthcare insurance rolls.

Delta Council is vitally concerned with the future of healthcare delivery in our rural region – and all of the economic, social, and community drivers it represents. While Medicaid expansion is not a complete panacea for individuals, the community's economy, healthcare providers, and employers, it is critical first step that will benefit all of them in the short and long term. We urge citizens and public officials to support the expansion of Medicaid for the State of Mississippi.

Adopted by: Delta Council Board of Directors

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