

## **NFDW Resolution Supporting Medicaid Expansion Funding and Protecting the Children's Health Insurance Program**

**WHEREAS**, in 2012 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that states can opt out of the Affordable Care Act's mandate to expand Medicaid, leading to thirty-two states expanding Medicaid and eighteen states rejecting the decision to join those accepting additional federal Medicaid funds; and

**WHEREAS**, data for fiscal years 2010–2015 from the National Association of State Budget Officers shows that in the states that expanded Medicaid there were no significant increases in state expenditures as a result of the expansion. In fact, evidence shows that states that implemented Medicaid expansion have seen savings in general revenue in their Medicaid budgets, as well as in other programs and agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, *The New England Journal of Medicine* reported states have reduced, not increased, state spending as a result of Medicaid expansion. Likewise, the strong balance of other objective evidence indicates that the actual cost to states so far from expanding Medicaid are negligible or minor, and that states across the political spectrum do not regret their decision to expand Medicaid; and

**WHEREAS**, the consequences of not expanding Medicaid amount to legislative neglect that leads to uncompensated care, greater health disparities, reductions in access to health services, long emergency room waits, and higher health insurance premiums for the citizens living in the states that have not expanded Medicaid; and

**WHEREAS**, cuts to Medicaid funding will directly affect the elderly, those in poverty, and children, especially those covered by the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) since slashing the funding for CHIP will severely impact children's health and lead to a lifetime of medical issues that could otherwise be resolved early on.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the **National Federation of Democratic Women (NFDW)** commends the thirty-two states that have expanded Medicaid. NFDW further supports increasing Medicaid services for all citizens and will actively join efforts for Medicaid expansion in the eighteen states that still need to provide more accessible and more affordable health care services.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NFDW opposes any cuts in funding of the Children's Health Care Program and we will lobby to prevent any fiscal reduction to this vitally important program.

Submitted by the NFDW Legislative Committee in May 2018; revised Florida proposal  
Adopted by the NFDW Membership at the 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention on June 16, 2018