



The Honorable Pat McCrory
The State Capitol
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

Dear Governor McCrory:

In Judaism, there is a concept called *Tikkun Olam*, which can be translated to mean "repairing the world." What this means is that Jews take seriously the responsibility to heal, repair and transform the world for the betterment of *all* people. The members of Judea Reform Congregation of Durham have always had a strong interest in social justice and in the general welfare of our fellow citizens. Because of this deep commitment, the Judea Reform Board of Trustees passed a resolution in support of the proposal to expand Medicaid coverage in North Carolina.

We appreciate that your administration is seriously considering expanding coverage and look forward to supporting you in that effort. As you know, accepting expansion of Medicaid will result in reduced health risks for hundreds of thousands of our citizens, save the state millions of dollars, create thousands of new jobs, and enable rural hospitals to thrive. This is an important public policy stance that will show that you and your administration are willing to fight for the good of all North Carolinians.

Attached please find the resolution approved by our Board in October, urging you to accept Federal support to expand Medicaid in North Carolina.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ivy Hoffman", is written over a faint, illegible printed name.

Ivy Hoffman, President of the Board of Trustees
Judea Reform Congregation, Durham, NC

A Resolution in Support of Expansion of Medicaid in North Carolina

October 28, 2014

WHEREAS, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act provides federal funding for states to expand Medicaid to all citizens earning less than 138 percent of the federal poverty level; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Health & Human Services estimated that accepting Medicaid expansion would extend insurance coverage to more than 500,000 North Carolinians and save the state approximately \$65 million over ten years; and

WHEREAS, the private economic forecasting company Regional Economic Models, Inc., projects that expanding Medicaid would create more than 25,000 jobs by 2016; and

WHEREAS, the American Academy of Actuaries estimates that refusing Medicaid expansion will increase private insurance premiums by more than 2 percent; and

WHEREAS, the tax firm Jackson Hewitt estimates that refusing Medicaid expansion will cost North Carolina employers between \$65 million and \$98 million in fees; and

WHEREAS, a Harvard-based state-to-state comparison in NEJM of Medicaid's effects on mortality showed that coverage prevented 2,840 deaths annually among 500,000 covered adults; and

WHEREAS, ancient Jewish scholars and texts argue that health care is not just an obligation for the patient and the doctor, but for society as well, listed by Maimonides among the ten most important communal services that had to be offered by a city to its residents; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., said, "*Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane*"; and

WHEREAS, we believe all residents of North Carolina should have access to affordable, quality health care;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Judea Reform Congregation urges the North Carolina General Assembly and the Governor to immediately accept federal funds to expand Medicaid in North Carolina.