

Nehalem Bay Health District Resolution #2020-01

Resolution Condemning Trump Administration Reductions to Medicare/Medicaid and Food Stamp Funding

Whereas, the Trump Administration has presented a proposed Fiscal Year 2021 federal budget that would drastically reduce funding for Medicare, Medicaid and Food Stamps in amounts that would severely impact hundreds, if not thousands of residents within the Nehalem Bay Health District (the district), and

Whereas, the proposed Trump Administration budget would over the next decade cut Medicare expenditures by \$850 billion, Medicaid by \$920 billion and reduce food stamp spending by \$181 billion, and

Whereas, according to 2010 United State Census data, 21% of Tillamook County's population was age 65 or older, and

Whereas, some of the most recent analysis indicates that nearly 40% of Tillamook County's residents current depending in all or in part on Medicare and Medicaid in order to address their health care needs, and

Whereas, the district's own 2019 Strategic Plan identifies the health care needs of an aging population, a situation particularly prevalent in the district's service area, as a major concern for the future, and a need that will only continue to grow, and

Whereas, according to Adventist Health's Community Health Assessment, Medicare spending per beneficiary is already 22% greater in Tillamook County than the state of Oregon average, a situation largely due to the rural nature of the county and the shortage of health care providers, and

Whereas, as the County's population continues to age spending for more expensive diagnostic services has the potential to increase these costs substantially, and

Whereas, the proposed Trump Administration cuts in Food Stamp benefits will only increase the food insecurity of residents, worsen hunger and poverty and place even greater strain on volunteer efforts, and

Whereas, through its partnership with the district the North County Food Bank in 2019 served 3,476 people, including 980 children with vital food assistance from its facility in Wheeler, and, therefore

Be it resolved that the Board of the Nehalem Bay Health District rejects in the strongest possible terms any effort to reduce or eliminate vital funding for Medicare, Medicaid and Food Stamps and, furthermore

The board calls on United States Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley and Congressman Kurt Schrader to reject short-sighted, damaging policies that weaken health care and food security for north Tillamook County residents.

And the board desires that these sentiments be as widely disseminated as possible in the interest of protecting these vital services and, furthermore

The board calls for constructive political action to improve – not diminish – the availability of affordable health care for all Oregonians.

Adopted by the Board this _____ day of _____ 2020

President or President Pro Tem

Chief Executive Officer