



Resolution in Support of the ACO Reach Model Medicare Program

WHEREAS, mayors are working to ensure the best health outcomes for their communities by promoting health equity, reinvigorating primary care, and supporting improvements to the unsustainable U.S. healthcare system;

WHEREAS, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) was created by the Affordable Care Act to create value-based Medicare model programs to achieve better care for patients, smarter spending, and healthier communities;

WHEREAS, in February 2022, CMMI announced the ACO Realizing Equity, Access, and Community Health (REACH) Model, the first model to require a health equity plan to reduce disparities and to collect patient demographic data tied to social determinants of health;

WHEREAS, reinvigorating primary care, emphasizing health equity, and concentrating on achieving better health outcomes is the path to fixing the unsustainable American healthcare system;

WHEREAS, according to research in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, keeping people healthier longer is a potential source of tremendous savings for the healthcare system. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that in the U.S., nearly \$4 trillion per year is spent on healthcare, and more than 85% is tied to patients with chronic conditions.

WHEREAS, the ACO REACH program incentivizes better access to primary care; management of chronic conditions, prevention and adherence to medication; addresses social determinants of health; reduces hospitalizations and emergency care; rewards long-term relationships with patients; and encourages locating new primary care practices in medically underserved communities;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the African American Mayors Association encourages Congress and the Biden administration to continue to support the CMMI ACO REACH model, which transforms the outdated fee-for-service Medicare model by putting primary care providers at the center of integrated care teams; rewards providers for high-quality, affordable care; and addresses health equity, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the African American Mayors Association urges Accountable Care Organizations in the ACO REACH program to confer and coordinate with mayors in the cities where they introduce new medical practices in order to ensure those communities enjoy the greatest health and economic benefits.