

RESOLUTION NO. 67 OF 2019

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

**RESOLUTION URGING NACO TO ADOPT A POLICY RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE 117TH CONGRESS TO AMEND SOCIAL SECURITY ACT TO REINSTATE FEDERAL HEALTH CARE BENEFITS FOR NON-CONVICTED JUSTICE INVOLVEMENT INDIVIDUALS, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO.**

WHEREAS, Congress recently approved restoring Pell Grants to convicted inmates in HR 133, the most recent fiscal spending bill adopted and signed into law, while healthcare coverage is being denied to non-convicted detainees and;

WHEREAS, current Medicaid laws make no distinction between pretrial detainees and those who have been convicted; and

WHEREAS, current federal law requires that any incarcerated person, including those housed in juvenile facilities, be excluded from Medicaid coverage unless they require a hospital stay of more than 24 hours; and

WHEREAS, this law poses an undue burden upon counties and parishes because these governing authorities must assume the healthcare costs of all incarcerated persons-for example Caddo Parish spent an estimated total of \$4,862,000 on inmate healthcare in 2020 (adult and juvenile) and;

WHEREAS, the law also results in unequal treatment because it denies federal benefits to those who are presumed innocent under the Constitution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened, that the Caddo Parish Commission does support the National Association of Counties' efforts to have Congress make changes to the Medicaid Exclusion provisions, and allow Medicaid benefits to be provided to pretrial detainees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if any provision or item or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect upon adoption.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution shall be submitted to the NACO Resolutions Portal by February 8,2021 and to the Louisiana Federal Delegation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

**Approved as to legal form:**

**Parish Attorney**

**Date**