



Legislation Text

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Urging Governor Corbett and the Pennsylvania General Assembly to re-start the adultBasic program for uninsured Pennsylvanians.

WHEREAS, In 2002, the adultBasic program was created to provide health care for lower income Pennsylvanians who did not receive health insurance from their employers and earned too much money to qualify for Medicaid and were too young to receive Medicare; and

WHEREAS, adultBasic, which covered major surgery but not dental costs or prescriptions, was so popular that by late 2010, it covered 42,625 Pennsylvanians and had a waiting list exceeding 400,000; and

WHEREAS, Governor Rendell expanded adultBasic by negotiating voluntary payments from Blue Cross insurers but the Corbett Administration ended adultBasic because the insurers withdrew their support and it was decided that the program was too expensive; and

WHEREAS, And in concert with this decision, the Pennsylvania General Assembly passed Act 46 of 2010 and Act of 2011 which allowed funding from the Pennsylvania Tobacco Settlement Act to be diverted from adultBasic; and

WHEREAS, Attorneys William Caroselli and David Senoff filed a lawsuit on behalf of 100 former adultBasic recipients based on the argument that the new legislation violated the Tobacco Settlement Act and the Pennsylvania Constitution and that money from the tobacco settlement was to be "used to make Pennsylvanians healthier and provide for the health of future generations of Pennsylvanians" and the Act specified that 30 percent of the proceeds would be shared between adultBasic and Medicaid for workers with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, In a March 4th majority opinion by President Judge Dan Pellegrini, the Commonwealth Court struck down the legislation that redirected tobacco settlement funds from adultBasic as unconstitutional and ruled that the Corbett Administration, beginning with the 2013-14 fiscal year, must allocate 30 percent of the settlement funds to adultBasic or a similar program, as well as to the Medical Assistance for Workers with Disabilities program; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, That we hereby urge Governor Corbett and the Pennsylvania General Assembly to use tobacco settlement funds to re-start the adultBasic program for uninsured Pennsylvanians.

RESOLVED, If adultBasic is not re-started, than these tobacco settlement funds should be used to start a similar program in concert with the Commonwealth's expansion of Medicaid under the Federal Affordable Care Act.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That an Engrossed copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Corbett and the Democrat and Republican leadership of the Pennsylvania General Assembly as a representation of the true wishes and sincere sentiments of this legislative body.

