

John Gaudet, M.D.
605 Mackwood Dr
Hattiesburg, MS 39402

February ²³~~17~~, 2021

VIA HAND-DELIVERY

Ms. Hawley Robertson
Assistant Secretary of State, Elections
Heber Ladner Building
401 Mississippi Street
Jackson, MS 39201

Re: Proposed Initiative Measure

Dear Ms. Hawley:

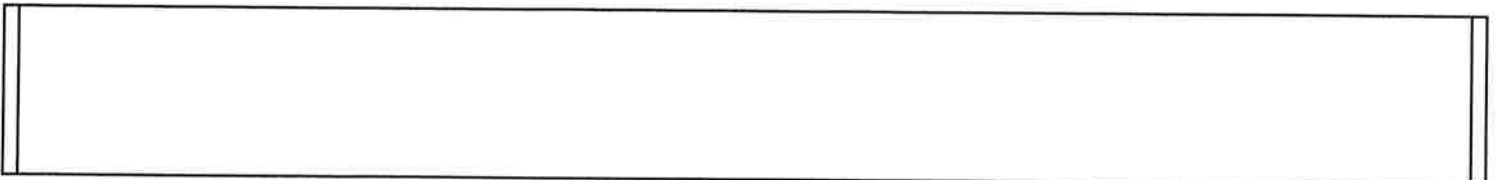
Enclosed for filing with the Secretary of State, please find the original and one copy each of the following:

1. A proposed initiative measure to amend the Mississippi Constitution pursuant to Section 273(3) – (13) to provide for expansion of the Mississippi Medicaid program, including the requisite revenue impact statement; and
2. The Affidavit of Measure Sponsor John Gaudet, M.D., attesting that he is a qualified elector of Forrest County, Mississippi.

I would appreciate your stamping the copies of these documents as “filed” and returning them to me via the messenger. Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Sincerely,

John Gaudet, M.D.



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Enclosures

COUNTY OF FORREST
STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

AFFIDAVIT OF SPONSOR

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned authority in and for the state and county shown above, the within named JOHN GAUDET, M.D., who, having been by me first duly sworn, did depose and say as follows:

1. My name is John Gaudet, M.D. I am the sponsor of the accompanying proposed initiative measure concerning Medicaid expansion.

2. I am an adult resident of Forrest County, Mississippi, and I am competent to give this testimony. I am a duly qualified elector of the State of Mississippi, being registered to vote in Forrest County, Mississippi.

Further, affiant sayeth naught.


JOHN GAUDET, M.D.

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME, this the 17 day of February, 2021.


NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission Expires:

May 14, 2023



PROPOSED INITIATIVE MEASURE

SECTION 1. Medicaid Expansion

A. Beginning no later than July 1, 2023, and continuing thereafter, the State shall provide medical assistance under Mississippi's Medicaid program to individuals over age eighteen (18) and under age sixty-five (65) with income not exceeding one-hundred thirty-three percent (133%) of the federal poverty level, plus five percent of the federal poverty level for the applicable family size, as described by and using the income methodology provided in the federal Medicaid statutes, and who meet applicable non-financial eligibility conditions for Medicaid benefits under federal law.

B. No greater or additional burdens or restrictions on eligibility or enrollment shall be imposed on individuals eligible for medical assistance pursuant to this Measure than on other categories of individuals eligible for coverage under the Mississippi Medicaid program.

SECTION 2. Implementation

A. Within 90 days of the Secretary of State's certification of the passage of this Measure, the single state agency designated in the Medicaid state plan shall submit all state plan amendments necessary to implement this Measure to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, for approval.

B. The Division of Medicaid shall take all actions necessary to maximize federal financial participation in funding medical assistance pursuant to this Measure.

SECTION 3. Construction

A. The provisions of this Measure are severable, and if any part or provision of this Measure, or the application thereof, shall be held void, invalid, or unconstitutional, the decision of the court so holding shall not affect or impair any of the remaining parts or provisions hereof, and the remaining provisions hereof shall continue in full force and effect.

B. This section shall be broadly construed to accomplish its purposes and intents.

REVENUE REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT THE MEASURE

The vast majority of the cost of the programs under this measure will be financed using federal funding. The federal government will cover 90 percent of the cost of the Medicaid expansion population. These federal dollars will replace certain existing State spending on services for the uninsured, increasing the share of the overall costs covered by the federal government. Additionally, the State will be able to access the enhanced federal matching funds for some existing Medicaid spending for which the State currently receives only the “regular” federal matching rate (77.76 percent in FFY 2021). The infusion of new federal funding is also projected to increase economic activity in Mississippi, thereby generating new state and local tax revenue.

In SFY 2023, the initiative would draw at least \$907 million in new federal funding and extend healthcare coverage to more than 200,000 currently uninsured Mississippians. The State share of Medicaid expansion costs would be

approximately \$99 million. However, an estimated 82 percent of these costs – or \$80 million – would be offset by reductions on other State health care spending as a direct result of Medicaid expansion and the remainder more than offset by new tax revenue generated by productivity gains.

For example, in SFY 2023 Mississippi would save an estimated \$51 million on currently eligible Medicaid enrollees, such as low-income pregnant women, becoming eligible for enhanced federal funding. The State would also save an estimated \$29 million by accessing federal funding for hospital care for incarcerated individuals and mental health and substance use disorder treatment that currently is funded entirely by the State. Further, the infusion of new federal funding into Mississippi's economy is projected to generate over \$95 million in new state and local tax revenues each year. This would more than offset the remaining state costs of expansion and result in a net benefit to the state budget of over \$76 million.