

RESOLUTION

URGING GOVERNOR WHITMER, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES DIRECTOR GORDON AND MEMBERS OF THE STATE'S LEGISLATURE TO IDENTIFY THE NECESSITY OF THE CARO CENTER REMAINING IN TUSCOLA COUNTY, MICHIGAN.

WHEREAS, the legislatively approved 2018 State Budget signed by the previous administration includes approximately \$115 million to, "Replace the Aging Caro Center," with an anticipated completion date of 2021; and

WHEREAS, Caro, as a caring community, has been the site of this facility for over 100 years and studies indicate that patients show more improvements in a rural area; and

WHEREAS, the fully-accredited hospital provides readily-insurable, 24-hour psychiatric inpatient care to 150 individuals of need. This care includes significant improvements to the overall quality of life to the patients and their families. Mainly, as of 2017, over 80% of patients being cared for reside in Tuscola County, an adjoining county, or not more than two counties from Tuscola County. The Caro Center provides a geographically centralized location for not only patients from the local proximities, but also the patients from around the entire State of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, The Caro Center is of vital economic importance to the thumb region, employing nearly 350 citizens of various pay grades and skill sets, making the organization the second-largest employer in Tuscola County. Roughly 70% of those employed at the facility reside in Caro, and/or Tuscola County; and

WHEREAS, in 2016 The Caro Center had \$8.95M in direct and \$26.59M in indirect expenditures, respectively. The total monetary economic impact of the Caro Center was approximately \$53.7M annually. These figures portray the economic dependency the local county and city has on the Caro Center. Relocation of the Caro Center would have dramatic, devastating impacts to local business operations, community infrastructure, learning institutions, quality of education and all persons whom reside, work or travel within our community; and

WHEREAS; the previous closure of State facilities led to expansive crippling economic and social impacts to the City of Caro and Tuscola County. By moving the Center, the same could happen again causing fiscal deficiencies, greater unemployment rates and depressed economic development; and

WHEREAS; on behalf of the local citizens of Caro, the statewide patients and employees of The Caro Center, the local businesses and their future development, the Caro City Council members are adamantly certain the Caro Center's current site is the most beneficial location for the State's investment to continue and potentially expand the Center's operations; and

WHEREAS; The Caro City Council is unequivocally dedicated to efforts of the Caro Center remaining in its current locale, and will continue our commitment to remaining steadfast in the innumerable responsibility to keep the facility at home; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Caro City Council does hereby recommend to Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Department of Health and Human Services Director Robert Gordon, and members of the State's legislature, to carefully deliberate the significant decision of the Caro Center's location by understanding not only the negative local but negative statewide impact the move would bring to the citizens, businesses, families, and patients whom would be directly affected by the Caro Center's relocation or potential operational collapse.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Department of Health and Human Services Director Robert Gordon, and members of the Michigan State Legislature who diligently represent the citizens, taxpayers and voters of the City of Caro and those representing the overall interest of the Great State of Michigan.

This Resolution declared adopted on the 22nd day of April, 2019 with the following roll call vote recorded:

Aye(s) Eschenbacher, Ewald, Greene, Hall, Kish, Jones-Holubec, Rickwalt, none.

The Caro City Council Members' and Representatives' Signatures of Support of this Resolution are as follows:

Mayor Joseph Greene Joseph Greene

Mayor Pro-Tem Brian Rickwalt Brian Rickwalt

Charlotte Kish Charlotte Kish

Robert Eschenbacher Robert Eschenbacher

Megan Ewald Megan Ewald

Tisha Jones-Holubec Tisha Jones-Holubec

Don Hall Don Hall

Manager Michael Silverman Michael Silverman

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution duly drafted by the City Clerk and adopted by the Caro City Council for the City of Caro at a special meeting held on Monday, April 22nd, 2019 in the Council Chambers of the City of Caro Municipal Building at 317 S. State St. Caro, Michigan, 48723

Lauren Rowley
Lauren Rowley, Caro City Clerk/Treasurer