

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 43 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY BULLOCK, HARRIS, KENYATTA, KINSEY, SANCHEZ, HILL-
EVANS, MADDEN, VENKAT, HOHENSTEIN, BURGOS, PROBST, PARKER,
KINKEAD, N. NELSON, INNAMORATO, OTTEN AND KHAN,
MARCH 23, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, MARCH 23, 2023

A RESOLUTION

1 Encouraging health insurers in this Commonwealth to provide
2 coverage for medically tailored meals to beneficiaries.

3 WHEREAS, Medically tailored meals are beneficial to patients
4 who battle a chronic illness because the meals provide nutrition
5 to those who cannot shop or cook for themselves or experience
6 food insecurity; and

7 WHEREAS, Medically tailored meals are formulated by a
8 registered dietitian nutritionist to fit the specific needs of
9 individual patients who suffer from illnesses such as diabetes,
10 cancer, HIV or any disease that requires frequent hospital care;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Medically tailored meals have been proven to reduce
13 health care costs and hospitalizations; and

14 WHEREAS, The Philadelphia-based Metropolitan Area
15 Neighborhood Nutrition Alliance (MANNA) has provided more than
16 21 million medically tailored meals to more than 43,000
17 residents of this Commonwealth since 1990, at no cost to their

1 clients; and

2 WHEREAS, MANNA has reported hospitalization stays for clients
3 were 37% shorter than for nonclients, clients visited the
4 hospital 50% less than nonclients and medical costs fell by
5 \$13,000 after clients started services with MANNA; and

6 WHEREAS, In December 2022, Highmark Health announced a new
7 pilot program to provide medically tailored meals to
8 approximately 1,000 Highmark-insured members; and

9 WHEREAS, The pilot program aids members with chronic health
10 conditions and those at high risk for food insecurity by
11 providing two meals a day for up to one year; and

12 WHEREAS, Other states, such as California, have included
13 medically tailored meals as a covered service option under state
14 health care programs; and

15 WHEREAS, Additionally, Medicaid Section 1115 Health-Related
16 Social Needs Services Waivers has provided for several states,
17 such as Massachusetts and Oregon, to distribute medically
18 tailored meals to beneficiaries; and

19 WHEREAS, The Biden-Harris administration is supportive of the
20 expansion of Medicare and Medicaid benefits in the creation of a
21 pilot program to provide medically tailored meals to
22 beneficiaries given the many health benefits and cost savings
23 these services provide; therefore be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage health
25 insurers in this Commonwealth to provide coverage for medically
26 tailored meals for beneficiaries; and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage the
28 Department of Human Services to require coverage of medically
29 tailored meals for qualified beneficiaries under the State
30 medical assistance program.