



Association of Pacific Island Legislatures

American Samoa
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
FSM, State of Chuuk
FSM, State of Kosrae
FSM, State of Pohnpei
FSM, State of Yap
Island of Guam
Republic of Kiribati
Republic of the Marshall Islands
Republic of Nauru
Republic of Palau
State of Hawaii

A RESOLUTION

APIL Resolution No. 42-GA-16

“A resolution expressing appreciation to the United States Government for extending Medicaid eligibility and healthcare services to citizens of the Freely Associated States (FAS) residing in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam.”

1 **WHEREAS**, the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures (APIL) is a regional body
2 uniting the legislative leaders of the Pacific to foster cooperation, solidarity, and
3 sustainable development for all island peoples; and

4 **WHEREAS**, the citizens of the Freely Associated States (FAS)—the Federated
5 States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau—
6 have contributed significantly to the communities and economies of the Commonwealth of
7 the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and Guam through their work, culture, and civic
8 participation; and

9 **WHEREAS**, under the provisions of the Compact of Free Association (COFA), FAS
10 citizens are permitted to live, work, and study in the United States and its territories,
11 including the CNMI and Guam, without the need for a visa; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the United States Congress, through the enactment of the Consolidated
13 Appropriations Act of 2021 (Public Law 116–260), restored Medicaid eligibility for COFA
14 migrants who had been previously excluded from such federal benefits; and

15 **WHEREAS**, this reinstatement has provided vital access to medical care and
16 preventive health services for thousands of COFA citizens living in the CNMI and Guam,
17 thereby improving public health outcomes for both the FAS community and the broader
18 island populations; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the Commonwealth Medicaid Agency under the Office of the Governor
2 of the CNMI provides essential health and wellness services, including hospital and clinic
3 care, as well as emergency and urgent care to eligible residents—including citizens of the
4 Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall
5 Islands—thereby ensuring access to quality healthcare for all who call the islands home;
6 and

7 **WHEREAS**, the Commonwealth Medicaid Agency and the Guam Department of
8 Public Health and Social Services continue to implement these programs with compassion
9 and inclusivity, ensuring that eligible COFA citizens receive the benefits for which they
10 qualify; and

11 **WHEREAS**, despite this progress, many COFA citizens remain unaware of their
12 eligibility for Medicaid and other available healthcare programs, resulting in
13 underutilization of these essential services; and

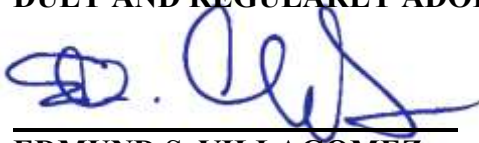
14 **WHEREAS**, APIL recognizes that greater outreach, education, and collaboration
15 among member jurisdictions can help ensure that COFA citizens and their families residing
16 in the CNMI and Guam benefit fully from these restored healthcare rights; now, therefore,

17 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 42nd General
18 Assembly on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, October 28-29,
19 2025, that the members hereby express their sincere gratitude to the Government of the
20 United States for restoring Medicaid eligibility and expanding healthcare access to citizens
21 of the Freely Associated States living in the U.S. territories; and


22 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that APIL respectfully urges its member
23 jurisdictions representing the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall
24 Islands, and the Republic of Palau to conduct community outreach and awareness
25 campaigns informing their citizens living in the CNMI and Guam of their eligibility for
26 Medicaid and related health programs; and

- 1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that APIL encourages ongoing partnership among
2 the governments of the CNMI, Guam, and the Freely Associated States to strengthen health
3 services, data-sharing, and culturally appropriate care for all island communities; and
4 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the APIL President shall certify and the APIL
5 Secretary shall attest to the adoption hereof, and that copies of this resolution be transmitted
6 to the President of the United States; the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services; the
7 Governors and Legislative Presiding Officers of the CNMI, Guam, the Federated States of
8 Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau; and the APIL
9 Secretariat for appropriate dissemination.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THE 29TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2025.



EDMUND S. VILLAGOMEZ
PRESIDENT



VICTOR BAMOG
SECRETARY

