WHEREAS, the open enrollment period for the Affordable Care Act opened in October 2013 to allow uninsured consumers find health coverage; at HealthCare.gov, consumers can see available plans, determine if they are eligible for financial assistance, find local help, and apply online for health coverage; and

WHEREAS, at the beginning of the enrollment period, an estimated 98,940 individuals in Allegheny County were presumed to be uninsured based on Census data; the average uninsured county resident is a white male, between the ages of 35 and 54 who has his high school diploma, and has at least one person in the family working full-time; and

WHEREAS, in order to facilitate conversations about the Affordable Care Act and how interested parties could collaborate and work together to reach the uninsured in Allegheny County, the County launched “Allegheny Activates,” an effort led by Health Director Dr. Karen Hacker and Human Services Director Marc Cherna, to share information, events and resources available within the county; and

WHEREAS, a Leadership Council was formed with representation from health care, unions, advocacy organizations, libraries, social service agencies, insurance companies, and faith-based organizations; its members have worked together to reach the uninsured, address needs and challenges, and host dozens of events over the past six months; and

WHEREAS, those same partners will host over thirty events beginning today through next Sunday and will continue to offer enrollment opportunities and information to residents through the end of the open enrollment period on March 31; Allegheny County is proud to have worked with so many organizations on this issue which focused on ensuring that all in our county have the opportunity to become insured.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby proclaim March 17-23, 2014 as “Affordable Care Act Week” in Allegheny County.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the County of Allegheny to be affixed this 17th day of March, 2014.

Rich Fitzgerald

Rich Fitzgerald