Hello Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council,

My name is Jonathan Krall and I am here today representing a coalition of Alexandrians. We support the expansion of Medicare to include everyone, known as Medicare For All. We have reached out to each of you, and talked with several of you, to ask that City Council pass a resolution in favor of Medicare For All. Today our wish is to make that appeal more public. I am here with my friends from Grassroots Alexandria, from the Northern Virginia Democratic Socialists of America, from Our Revolution, from Tenants and Workers United, and with individual Alexandrians. [encourage supporters to stand up]

Polling data consistently shows that a majority of Americans support Medicare For All. And yet, Congress has failed us. We here today are supporting a national effort to pass Medicare For All resolutions in cities across the United States.

Our draft resolution asks that Congress pass its most recently proposed Medicare For All bill. It is based on a 2017 resolution, passed by City Council, including some of you, in support of Obamacare. Where the 2017 resolution instructs Congress to *not* act on a proposed repeal of Obamacare, this resolution instructs Congress *to* act to pass Medicare For All.

The proposed resolution cites the many ways that Medicare For All would help our community. The city of Alexandria spends nearly $10 million per year on healthcare. 8% of Alexandians, disproportionately Black and Brown Alexandrians, remain uninsured.

Grassroots Alexandria has led this local effort in the hope that these benefits will come to us. As an Alexandrian approaching Medicare age, I am personally hopeful that an expanded Medicare system will enjoy broader public support so that Medicare can, in turn, support me in my old age.

Thank you very much.

Good morning, my name is Ann, and I am here today to speak in favor of Medicare for All.
I speak today as a resident of Alexandria, and a person whose health is permanently tied to our medical system.

Since my early 20's, I've lived with Type 1 diabetes. I take insulin every morning, and almost every time I eat. I have paid out of pocket for this insulin and other medications until reaching my deductible. That is, I pay $3,000 in the first 3 or 4 months of the year, every year on just medication, in addition to my premium.

While recent price caps on insulin have improved for some, I have other medications that still reach my deductible yearly. It would be an additional financial burden for a family member to be on my health care plan. My deductible and out of pocket cost would double to 6000.

Living with a chronic illness is frustrating under our current health system.
Will I be able to afford medication if my employer offers different health plans, if I lose my job, or have a medical emergency out of network?
These are common concerns of many. There are other residents of Alexandria, other Americans, that end up paying several thousands of dollars every year for treatment and prescriptions.

Our healthcare system must do better. Please, show your support by passing a resolution in favor of Medicare for All.

Thank you.