

RESOLUTION  
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
BILLINGS CLINIC

WHEREAS, numerous reports and studies authored by the University of Montana, including well respected consulting firms, have independently demonstrated the HELP Act has significantly benefited more than 95,000 Montanans who have received health care coverage as of October 1, 2018, representing 9.3% of our state's population; and

WHEREAS, the HELP Act has improved health outcomes and led to early detection of disease, ensured that 7,026 women received breast cancer screenings, averted 2,313 possible cases of colon cancer, provided 28,683 patients with outpatient mental health services, delivered outpatient substance abuse treatment to 7,146 adults and has allowed 86,995 adults to receive preventive services from HELP Act benefits; and

WHEREAS, in Yellowstone County, more than 13,900 residents representing almost 9% of the population are now receiving health care coverage under the HELP Act, resulting in 13,853 preventative primary care visits; and

WHEREAS, hospitals across Montana have seen uninsured rates reduced 48% and more importantly, have remained financially viable due to reduction in uncompensated care levels; and

WHEREAS, Billings Clinic has redirected savings from reduction in uncompensated care into avoiding system wide rate increases; and

WHEREAS, the HELP Act has benefited Billings Clinic and other hospitals, the greater concern is that the loss of coverage would in many cases cause irreparable harm and put at risk the financial viability of our hospital and others; and

WHEREAS, health care is the largest source of private sector income in Montana, representing 1 in 5 dollars earned and the second largest source of private sector employment representing 15.6% of the industry total, paying 25% higher than the statewide average; and

WHEREAS, the HELP Act has significantly stimulated Montana's economy according to the University of Montana's Bureau of Business and Economic Research, which reported that as the result of the HELP Act, 5,000 new jobs, \$270 million in personal income and \$500 million in additional economic output has been added to Montana's economy. Additionally, the HELP Act is expected to generate \$1.2 billion in personal income and \$2.6 billion in economic output or new sales; and

WHEREAS, the HELP Act has served as an economic incentive for small businesses unable to provide health insurance by making coverage available for working Montanans and generating \$36 million in state budget savings by using federal funds to pay for state programs, freeing up state tax dollars for other priorities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF BILLINGS CLINIC endorses the HELP Act and supports repealing the sunset of the Act and further recognizes our patients, caregivers, and the citizens of Yellowstone County have a compelling interest in ensuring our hospital remains financially viable and an economic engine for our surrounding area; and


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF BILLINGS CLINIC strongly requests our legislative delegation and the Montana Legislature to repeal the sunset of the HELP Act and protect health care coverage for almost 100,000 Montanans and the \$2.6 billion economic engine it has created.

APPROVED ON THIS DAY, JANUARY 22, 2019 BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF BILLINGS CLINIC

  
LILLIE C. ANDERSON, SECRETARY

  
WAYNE HIRSCH, TRUSTEE

  
CRAIG BARTHOLOMEW, TRUSTEE

  
PENNI NANCE, VICE CHAIR

  
DAVID BROWN, TRUSTEE

  
JOY N. OTT, CHAIR

  
KEITH COOK, TRUSTEE

  
ROBERT PUERINGER, M.D., TRUSTEE

  
WILLIAM EBZERY, TRUSTEE

  
JOHN SCHALLENKAMP, M.D., TRUSTEE

  
ELIZABETH FULTON, TRUSTEE

  
RANDALL K. GIBB, MD, CEO, TRUSTEE