

RESOLUTION
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
BENEFIS TETON MEDICAL CENTER



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 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 provided 86,995 adults with general preventive services; and

WHEREAS, in Teton County, more than 560 residents representing 9.3% of the population are now receiving health care coverage under the HELP Act, resulting in 554 preventative primary care visits; and

WHEREAS, hospitals across Montana have seen uninsured rates reduced 54% and more importantly, Benefis Teton Medical Center has experienced a 90% reduction in bad debt levels; and

WHEREAS, although the HELP Act has benefited Benefis Teton Medical Center and other hospitals, the loss of coverage would in many cases cause irreparable harm and put at risk the financial viability of numerous hospitals throughout the state, with studies indicating that during the first 2 years of Medicaid expansion nationally, hospitals in expansion states were 6 times less likely to close than hospitals in non-expansion states; 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, including in its smaller communities, with the University of Montana's Bureau of Business and Economic Research reporting that 584 health care jobs were added in areas outside Montana's larger cities and towns in the first two years following Medicaid expansion after several years of stagnant or declining health care employment. Additionally, 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 overall economy; 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

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(b) Daniel Lindseth
 Daniel W Lindseth
 (c) Louie King, CEO
 Louie King

\$36 million in state budget savings by using federal funds to pay for state programs, freeing up state tax dollars for other priorities; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF BENEFIS TETON MEDICAL CENTER endorses the HELP Act and further recognizes our patients, caregivers, and the citizens of Teton 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 BENEFIS TETON MEDICAL CENTER strongly requests our legislative delegation and the Montana Legislature to reach a bipartisan solution to continue Medicaid Expansion beyond its scheduled sunset date and protect health care coverage for almost 100,000 Montanans and the \$2.6 billion economic engine it has created.

APPROVED ON THIS DAY, DECEMBER 17, 2018, BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF BENEFIS TETON MEDICAL CENTER.

Ron Danwalder Ron Danwalder CHAIRMAN

NAME

SIGNATURE

Judy Borland, MD Judy Borland, MD

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Brian McCollom, MD Brian McCollom, MD

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