

RESOLUTION
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
St. Luke Community Healthcare

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 7,186 adults in total 86,995 adults received preventative services from the HELP Act benefits; and

WHEREAS, in Lake County, more than 3,704 residents representing almost 13% of the population are now receiving health care coverage under the HELP Act, resulting in 7,626 preventative primary care visits and 1,104 adults receiving mental health services; and

WHEREAS, hospitals across Montana have seen uninsured rates reduced 48% and St. Luke Community Healthcare has experienced a 43% reduction in uncompensated care levels; and

WHEREAS, health care is the largest source of private sector income in Montana, with St. Luke employing nearly 3% of the Lake County workforce, paying out nearly 11% of the county's total wages, and directly or indirectly accounting for a total of 6,600 jobs in Northwest Montana; 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; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the BOARD OF DIRECTORS of St. Luke Community Healthcare endorses the HELP Act and further recognizes our patients, caregivers, and the citizens of Lake 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 St. Luke Community Healthcare 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.

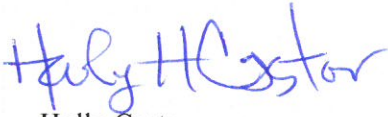
APPROVED ON THIS DAY, January 28, 2019, BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF ST. LUKE COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE.



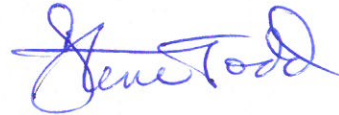
Vern Clairmont



Tom Pavlock



Holly Castor



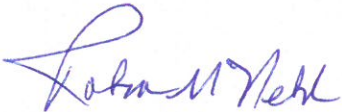
Steve Todd



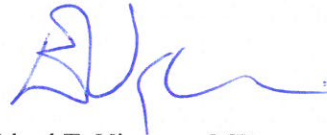
Martin Olsson




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Robin Nelson



Edred T. Vizcarra, MD



Jennifer McGinnis