

January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Montana State House Leadership

Attn: Speaker of the House Greg Hertz, Speaker Pro Tempore Wylie Galt, Majority Leader Brad Tschida

Montana House of Representatives

PO Box 200400

Helena, MT 59620

Dear House Leadership:

On behalf of the Big Sky Economic Development Board of Directors, a board charged with the responsibility of leading economic development in Yellowstone County, we are writing this letter in support of Medicaid Expansion.

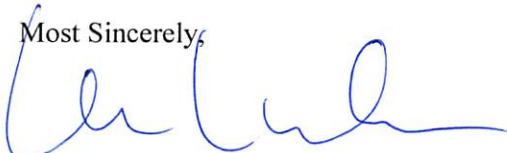
Big Sky Economic Development (BSED) supported the expansion of Medicaid as a part of our Legislative Priorities for the 2015 Session of the Montana Legislature. We were joined in that support by both the Montana Chamber and the Billings Chamber of Commerce.

The position of BSED in 2015, supporting Medicaid expansion, was centered around the economic benefits directly and indirectly related to the funding of an expanded Medicaid program designed to extend coverage to uninsured Montana residents. Both St. Vincent Healthcare and Billings Clinic, along with other healthcare providers encouraged our support. Recognizing the positive impact on jobs and economic activity, BSED supported the expansion of Medicaid.

Right now, healthcare services represent nearly \$2.5 billion of the \$10.2 billion Yellowstone County GDP, and accounts for over 20% of our total active workforce. Over 20,000 jobs in our community are directly or indirectly related to our healthcare industry. Medicaid expansion clearly is an economic development issue for Yellowstone County.

Big Sky Economic Development, in partnership with St. Vincent Healthcare, Billings Clinic, Advance Care Hospital, The Montana Hospital Association, and our many private sector partners, respectfully ask the leaders of the Montana Legislature to maintain Montana's Medicaid Expansion Program. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Most Sincerely,



Mike Nelson

EDC Board Chair

Big Sky Economic Development

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