

RESOLUTION 2019 - 1
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FRANCES MAHON DEACONESS HOSPITAL

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

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 positive association between a person having insurance coverage and that person's ability to access health care services is well established in empirical research by many independent bodies; and

WHEREAS, numerous reports and studies authored by the University of Montana and 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's has improved health outcomes and led to early detection of disease and 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, in total 86,995 adults received preventive services from HELP Act benefits; and

WHEREAS, within Frances Mahon Deaconess Hospital's service area, more than 2,857 residents now receiving health care coverage under the HELP Act, resulting in 2494 preventative primary care visits; and

WHEREAS, the Montana Hospital Association and its member have committed to working with the State of Montana Legislature to develop programs to assist in substantially funding the increased costs to the State of Montana under current Federal law; and

WHEREAS, France Mahon Deaconess Hospital is committed to supporting legislation that appropriately promotes access to health care services for the people it serves;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF FRANCES MAHON DEACONESS HOSPITAL endorses the HELP Act and supports repealing the sunset

of the Act and further recognizes our patients, caregivers, and the citizens of Phillips, Valley, Daniels and Roosevelt Counties 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 TRUSTEES OF FRANCES MAHON DEACONESS HOSPITAL 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 30, 2019, BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF FRANCES MAHON DEACONESS HOSPITAL.



Kris Simensen, Secretary/Treasurer
Frances Mahon Deaconess Hospital
Board of Trustees