

RESOLUTION OF THE  
PROVIDENCE MONTANA COMMUNITY MINISTRY BOARD

WHEREAS, the Providence Montana Community Ministry Board serves as the governance board for both St. Patrick Hospital in Missoula and Providence St. Joseph Medical Center in Polson; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid Expansion in Montana (HELP Act) has benefitted approximately 95,000 Montanans, or over 9% of Montana's population, with healthcare coverage as of November 1, 2018; and

WHEREAS, access to preventive care and primary care improve an individual's health and reduce long-term health costs by preventing the types of health deterioration that lead to visits to the emergency room, hospitalizations, and other intensive treatment; and

WHEREAS, the HELP Act has improved health outcomes and led to early detection of disease, and as of November 1, 2018, ensured over 7,000 women received breast cancer screenings, averted over 2,400 possible diagnoses of colon cancer, provided almost 29,000 people with outpatient mental health care, and provided nearly 89,000 Montanans with general preventive care; and

WHEREAS, in Missoula County as of November 1, 2018, over 11,000 residents representing 10% of our county's population received health coverage under the HELP Act, resulting in almost 11,000 preventive primary care visits; and

WHEREAS, in Lake County as of November 1, 2018, over 3,700 residents representing 12.7% of our county's population received health coverage under the HELP Act, resulting in almost 3,700 preventive primary care visits; and

WHEREAS, the HELP Act has resulted in over 7,000 Montanans receiving outpatient substance abuse treatment and almost 2,000 receiving residential substance abuse treatment, both of which are important due to Montana having the highest suicide rate in the nation according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and research has linked substance abuse to suicidal ideation; and

WHEREAS, the uninsured rate in Montana has dropped by over 50% since passage of the HELP Act; and

WHEREAS, according to the University of Montana's Bureau of Business and Economic Research, the HELP Act has significantly stimulated the Montana economy by adding over 5,000 new private sector jobs and \$270 million in additional personal income for Montana families; and

WHEREAS, the HELP Act has served Montana's small businesses unable to provide health insurance by making coverage available to working Montanans who otherwise would be uninsured; and


WHEREAS, the HELP Act has resulted in approximately \$36 million in savings to the state budget due to a more favorable state-federal match.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the PROVIDENCE MONTANA COMMUNITY MINISTRY BOARD, endorses Medicaid Expansion in Montana and further recognizes that such support is consistent with our Mission of revealing and fostering God's healing love to all we serve, especially the poor and the vulnerable; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the PROVIDENCE MONTANA COMMUNITY MINISTRY BOARD recognizes that our patients, providers, and the citizens of Missoula and Lake Counties and surrounding areas have a compelling interest in ensuring our facility remains able to continue to provide all of the high quality services we currently provide to our patients; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the PROVIDENCE MONTANA COMMUNITY MINISTRY BOARD strongly requests that the Missoula area and Lake County legislative delegations and the Montana Legislature, along with the Governor, reach a bipartisan legislative solution to continue Medicaid Expansion beyond June 30, 2019, and protect healthcare coverage for our approximately 95,000 fellow Montanans who otherwise would have no coverage at all.

APPROVED ON THIS 22 DAY OF January, 2019.

 1/22/19

William Bekemeyer, MD, Chair

Signed on behalf of the Providence Montana, Community Ministry Board:

Caryl Cox, PhD, Polson, MT  
Joyce Dombrowski, RN, Missoula, MT  
Kimberly Dudik, RN, Missoula, MT  
Laurie Francis, RN, Missoula, MT  
Mark Garnaas, MD, Missoula, MT  
Reed Humphrey, PhD, Missoula MT  
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Charlotte Nelson, MD, Missoula, MT  
Kaia Peterson, Missoula MT  
Shauna Rubel, Polson, MT  
Peggy Schlesinger, MD, Missoula, MT  
Mark Williams, Missoula MT