

Northern Rockies Medical Center

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January 4, 2019

Dear Fellow Hospital CEO,

As CEO at Northern Rockies Medical Center, I know firsthand of the insights and influence our hospital trustees possess. It is why they were asked to serve. It is also why we need to call upon them to take a stand in support of the continuation of Medicaid expansion.

Without reauthorization of the HELP Act from the 2019 Montana Legislature, Montana stands to lose Medicaid expansion—a \$2.6 billion economic engine in our state and a lifeline to our local hospitals, especially in rural areas. If legislators allow the HELP Act to sunset or allow it to be dramatically reduced, it would result in a health system collapse in Montana which would have a devastating ripple effect on our economy, the health of our communities and the health of small businesses throughout the state—not to mention the economic loss of the new jobs created and payroll which has benefited our communities with additional resources for economic development and schools.

Our board of trustees recently adopted a resolution drafted by MHA in support of the continuation of Medicaid expansion, and shared it with our legislative delegation to ensure they understand the facts about Medicaid expansion—particularly in the local communities they serve. The response from our delegation was very positive and since then hospitals within our region have done the same.

It is well-known that legislators listen most closely to those constituents responsible for electing them to office. I urge you to join this effort in your own community, with your local legislators. It is essential that lawmakers who support Medicaid expansion know their local hospital trustees have their back. Attached please find an open letter from NRMCM Board Chair Rick Billman to your board of trustees, asking them to approve a similar resolution. I have also included a copy of the resolution we approved.

Please share our board chair's letter, NRMCM's signed resolution and the resolution template with your board. If your organization decides to join this effort, MHA can assist you with specific data elements to tailor design the resolution for your region. Once your board approves the resolution, please forward it to Rich Rasmussen, MHA's CEO at rich@mtha.org. All of the resolutions will be used in our communications strategy and shared with legislators to demonstrate support across the state.

I hope you will join me in sharing the importance of continuing Medicaid expansion in the life and health of our state. Your leadership on this legislative priority and the support of your board of trustees is critical to our success.

Sincerely,



Cherie Taylor

CEO, Northern Rockies Medical Center | Cut Bank, Montana
Chair, Montana Hospital Association Board of Trustees