

Northern Rockies Medical Center

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January 3, 2019

Dear Fellow Board of Trustees Member,

As trustees on the boards of our local hospitals, we have a responsibility to help ensure access to health care for the communities we serve.

Right now, hospitals across the state—and particularly in our small towns—face a serious threat to their viability. Without action from the 2019 Montana Legislature, the HELP Act (which includes Medicaid expansion) is set to expire in 2019. Not only would this have a dire impact on our local hospitals, but it would have devastating consequences for the health of our workforce and small businesses across the state.

Northern Rockies Medical Center Board of Trustees recently adopted a resolution 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. Passage of the resolution and public support for our delegation members who will vote to extend expansion was well received by our legislators. Since then, several of the hospitals in our region have done the same and it was suggested by our lawmakers that all boards of trustees join us in this focused effort.

I'm writing to ask your board to consider adopting a similar resolution. With so much on the line for our local hospitals, trustees like us need to work together to help our local legislators understand how crucial it is to continue the HELP Act. This is a timely request as the 2019 session is just beginning.

Attached please find the resolution developed by the Montana Hospital Association (MHA) and adopted by NRMC, as well as a template that you may tailor to suit your hospital's needs. MHA can assist you with specific data elements reflecting the impact the HELP Act has had on your community. Once your board has approved the resolution, please share it with your delegation and have your CEO forward it to MHA for used in its broader communications strategy.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this effort and reach out to your board. I welcome your input and look forward to working with you to elevate this issue in the Montana Legislature.

Sincerely,



Rick Billman

Chairman, Northern Rockies Medical Center Board of Trustees | Cut Bank, Montana