



**RESOLUTION  
IN SUPPORT OF MONTANA MEDICAID EXPANSION  
ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
BILLINGS CLINIC  
12/12/2023**

**WHEREAS**, Billings Clinic's mission is health care, education and research and its vision is to provide best in nation clinical quality, patient safety, service and value;

**WHEREAS**, a significant body of research, studies and reports indicate that having healthcare coverage is key to improving the health status of a community;

**WHEREAS**, a high rate of uninsured residents is linked to an increase in the severity of health conditions, poorer outcomes, and higher costs as a result of delayed care and seeking emergency care for conditions that could have been avoided or managed through preventative care;

**WHEREAS**, the expansion of Medicaid in Montana has provided healthcare coverage to low-income Montanans who otherwise have few other options for healthcare coverage, helping to reduce the rate of uninsured Montanans by 45% and residents of Yellowstone County by 54% since Medicaid expansion was implemented;

**WHEREAS**, Montana is experiencing a behavioral health crisis, and Montana's expansion of Medicaid provides a stable payment source for behavioral health services including \$54 million in new funds for substance abuse disorder prevention and medication-assisted treatment to address the state's opioid epidemic;

**WHEREAS**, in 2023, Medicaid expansion in Yellowstone County has improved health outcomes and led to early detection of disease, including breast cancer screenings and treatment for 922 women, 512 colon cancer screenings which potentially averted 151 cases of cancer, mental health services for 7,468 patients, and substance abuse treatment for 2150 patients;

**WHEREAS**, Montana has the 13<sup>th</sup> lowest rate of state general fund spending on Medicaid nationally and a lower rate of spending than peer states (CO, ND, SD, WA, WY), including those states that have not expanded Medicaid (SD, WY);

**WHEREAS**, Medicaid expansion has significantly grown Montana's economy according to a 2023 study conducted by ABMJ Consulting, which reported that Medicaid expansion helped create and sustain over 7,500 new jobs across multiple industries and generated an estimated \$475 million in new personal income and \$775 million in economic activity in 2022. For Yellowstone County, Medicaid expansion has supported 1583 jobs, \$113.6 million in personal income and \$262.5 million in local economic activity;

**WHEREAS**, over the past several years, Billings Clinic has remained financially viable due in large part to a 63.5% reduction in uninsured patient volumes since Medicaid expansion took effect;

**WHEREAS**, Billings Clinic is currently facing unprecedented financial pressures resulting from a double digit increase in expenses (driven by post-pandemic factors including a shortage of healthcare workers and reliance on temporary contractors, increased prices for drugs and other supplies, and other inflationary factors) paired with stagnant revenues in 2023 compared to the prior year;

**WHEREAS**, the payments received for caring for Medicaid patients represents nearly 20% of Billings Clinic's net revenues, which support the financial stability of our organization for all who depend on us for care;

**WHEREAS**, residents from the Billings Clinic service area receive care not only from Billings Clinic but several other Montana hospitals, independent physicians and health services, and the ability of these providers to remain financially viable and continue to provide care to all patients may be negatively impacted by significant changes to or the sunset of Medicaid expansion in Montana;

**WHEREAS**, the Billings Clinic Board of Directors has a fiduciary responsibility to plan for the fiscal impacts of any major known or anticipated event on the organization, such as the current Medicaid expansion sunset date of July 2025;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, Billings Clinic endorses Montana's current Medicaid expansion program, supports repealing the sunset of the program, and further recognizes that the patients, caregivers, and the citizens of Yellowstone County have a compelling interest in ensuring that Billings Clinic remains financially viable and an economic engine for our surrounding area;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, Billings Clinic strongly requests our legislative delegation and the Montana Legislature to repeal the sunset of the Medicaid Reform and Integrity Act passed in 2019 and protect healthcare coverage for low-income Montanans and the \$775 million economic engine it has created.

**ADOPTED** December 12, 2023, by the Billings Clinic Board of Directors.



Attested by: Eileen McDonald, Secretary  
Date:

12/12/2023