

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF MEDICAID EXPANSION
ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
Big Horn Hospital Association
12/14/2023

WHEREAS, Big Horn Hospital Association, exists to improve the health of the patients and communities we serve;

WHEREAS, a significant body of research, studies and reports indicate that having health 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 patient 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 Big Horn, Treasure and Rosebud County by an average of 39% 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 the 12-month period from September 2022-October 2023 alone, Medicaid expansion in Big Horn, Rosebud and Treasure counties has improved health outcomes and led to early detection of disease, including breast cancer screenings and treatment for 106 women (66 in Big Horn County, 33 in Rosebud County, 7 in Treasure County); 80 colon cancer screenings (55 in Big Horn County, 25 in Rosebud County) which potentially averted 29 cases of cancer (22 in Big Horn County, 7 in Rosebud County); mental health services for 645 patients (450 in Big Horn County, 177 in Rosebud County and 18 in Treasure County), and substance abuse treatment for 96 patients (20 in Big Horn County, 76 in Rosebud County);

WHEREAS, Montana has the 13th 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 Big Horn, Rosebud and Treasure counties, Medicaid expansion has supported 91 jobs, \$4,954,000 in personal income and \$13,603,000 in local economic activity;

WHEREAS, Big Horn Hospital Association has remained financially viable due in large part to a 67% reduction in uncompensated care levels since Medicaid expansion took effect;

WHEREAS, Big Horn Hospital Association is currently facing unprecedented financial pressures resulting from a 43% increase in expenses (driven by post-pandemic forces including a shortage of healthcare workers and reliance on temporary contractors, increased prices for drugs and other supplies) paired with 1% change in revenue in fiscal year 2022 compared to the prior year since Medicaid expansion took effect;

WHEREAS, the payments received for caring for Medicaid patients represents 43% of Big Horn Hospital Association gross revenues, which support the financial stability of our organization for all who depend on us for care;

WHEREAS, residents from our service area receive care not only from us 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;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Big Horn Hospital Association endorses Montana's current Medicaid expansion program, supports repealing the sunset of the program, and further recognizes our patients, caregivers, and the citizens of Big Horn, Rosebud and Treasure counties have a compelling interest in ensuring our hospital remains financially viable and an economic engine for our surrounding area;


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Big Horn Hospital Association 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; and

APPROVED ON THIS DAY, December 14, 2023, BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF BIG HORN HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION.

Board Members:



Thor Torske, Board Chair



Colleen Schaak, Vice Chair



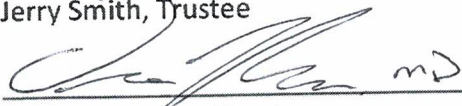
Jim Seykora, Secretary

Matt Torske, Treasurer

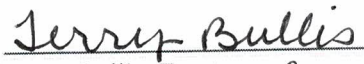


Larry Vandersloot, Trustee

Jerry Smith, Trustee




Dr. Orin Hansen, Trustee



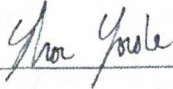
Terry Bullis, Trustee
by: Kristi Satrud, CEO

Nichole Mehling, Trustee



Sandy Morse, Trustee

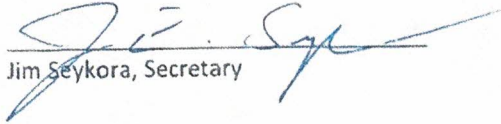
Board Members:



Thor Torske, Board Chair

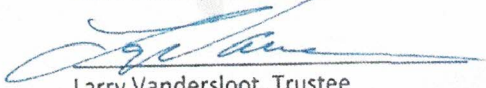


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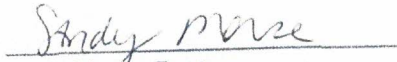


Dr. Orin Hansen, Trustee

Terry Bullis, Trustee

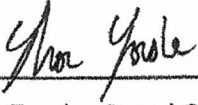


Nichole Mehling, Trustee



Sandy Morse, Trustee

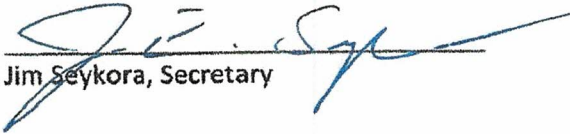
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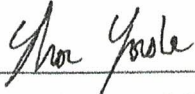
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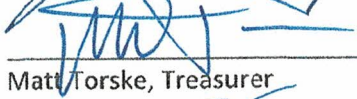
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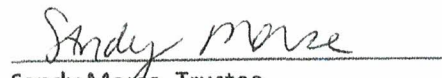
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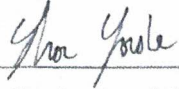
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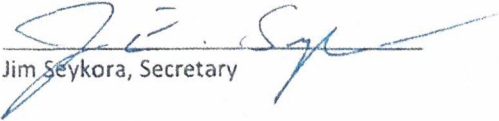
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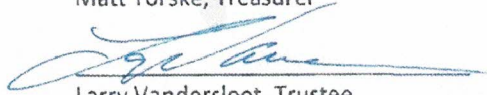


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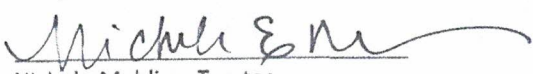
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