

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF MEDICAID EXPANSION
ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
ROOSEVELT MEDICAL CENTER in CULBERTSON MT
February 26, 2024

WHEREAS, Roosevelt Medical Center 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 Roosevelt County by 3.1% 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 previous 12 months ending January 31, 2024, Medicaid expansion has improved health outcomes and led to early detection of disease, including breast cancer screenings and treatment for 6,253 women in MT including 57 women in Roosevelt County; 3,548 colon cancer screenings in MT including 32 in Roosevelt County; hypertension treatment for 7,095 Montanans including 48 in Roosevelt County; and mental health services for 37,532 patients including 3,939 in Roosevelt 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 Roosevelt

County, Medicaid expansion has supported 64.4 jobs, \$3,775,000 in personal income and \$10,558,000 in local economic activity;

WHEREAS, Roosevelt Medical Center has remained financially viable due in large part to a 6% reduction in uncompensated care levels since Medicaid expansion took effect;

WHEREAS, Roosevelt Medical Center is currently facing unprecedented financial pressures resulting from an 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);

WHEREAS, the payments received for caring for Medicaid patients represents 26% of Roosevelt Medical Center's 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;

WHEREAS, the Roosevelt Medical Center Board of Trustees has a fiduciary responsibility to our community 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, Roosevelt Medical Center endorses Montana's current Medicaid expansion program, supports repealing the sunset of the program, and further recognizes our patients, caregivers, and the citizens of our service area in Roosevelt County have a compelling interest in ensuring our hospital remains financially viable and an economic engine for our surrounding area;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Roosevelt Medical Center 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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Roosevelt Medical Center Board of Trustees will have to consider the impact a budget scenario without Medicaid expansion for RMC's Fiscal Year End 4/30/26 and beyond will have on services provided and access to health care should the Legislature not renew the program.

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF MONTANA MEDICAID EXPANSION APPROVED ON THIS DAY,
FEBRUARY 26, 2024, BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF ROOSEVELT MEDICAL
CENTER, CULBERTSON MT:

Board Members:

 _____, Robbie Dent-Savelkoul, Board Chair

 _____, Kathleen Thompson, Vice Chair

_____, Sharon Schmitz, Trustee

 _____, Steve Larsen, Trustee

_____, Cassandra Bergum, Trustee

 _____, Amber Fox, Director

 _____, Russell Bowker, Director

 _____, Scott Roth, Director

 _____, Wes Stepler, Director

 _____, Jesse Lyon, Director