

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF MEDICAID EXPANSION
ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
Wheatland Memorial Healthcare
02.16.2024

WHEREAS, Wheatland Memorial Healthcare 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 by 20 percentage points for residents of Wheatland/Golden Valley counties 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 Wheatland and Golden Valley Counties has improved health outcomes and led to early detection of disease, including breast cancer screenings and treatment for 32 women, 14 colon cancer screenings which potentially averted 6 cases of cancer, mental health services for 110 patients, and substance abuse treatment for 20 patients;

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 Wheatland and Golden Valley Counties, Medicaid expansion has supported 13 jobs, \$557,000] in personal income and \$1.794 million in local economic activity;

organization will inform members of our community and local legislators on the impacts to local healthcare services should the Legislature not renew the program.

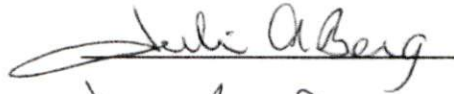
APPROVED ON THIS DAY, February 15, 2024, BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF WHEATLAND MEMORIAL HEALTHCARE.



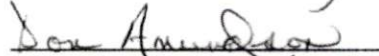
Richard Moe, Board Chair

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