



RESOLUTION SUPPORTING CONTINUATION OF MONTANA MEDICAID EXPANSION  
ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
BIG SKY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, Big Sky Economic Development's mission is to sustain and grow our region's vibrant economy and outstanding quality of life, by providing leadership and resources for business creation, expansion, retention, new business recruitment and community development; and

WHEREAS, Increased access to reliable healthcare creates and sustains a healthy, viable workforce that is key to addressing our state's workforce shortage by ensuring that the working-age adults in our state remain able to work; and

WHEREAS, Montana is a small business state, and expanded Medicaid has provided small business employees access to affordable healthcare coverage for nearly 10 years; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion, established in Montana in 2015 by the Help Act (SB405), has improved health outcomes, increased the financial health of our residents, and created a healthier workforce; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid Expansion has significantly stimulated Montana's statewide economy by creating and sustaining over 7,500 new jobs, generating an estimated \$475 million in new personal income, and fueling \$775 million in additional economic activity to Montana's economy in 2022; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid provides healthcare coverage for more than 30% of workers in housekeeping, childcare, and food service industries and coverage for more than 20% of personal care attendants, servers, cashiers, retail sales associates and laborers by having 82,941 adults enrolled in the program as of March 2024; and

WHEREAS, Montana invests \$900,000 in state funds which is federally matched by Medicaid expansion dollars, thus creating a \$6 million stable funding source for graduate medical education (GME) which is critical to ensuring the next generation of healthcare providers for Montanans; and

WHEREAS, in Yellowstone County specifically, Medicaid expansion has helped create and sustain an estimated 1,583 jobs, generated approximately \$113.6 million in personal labor income, and produced \$262.5 million in additional local economic activity that could be lost without Medicaid Expansion; and

WHEREAS, as of March 2024 in Yellowstone County, 12,211 adults ages 19-64 are enrolled in Medicaid Expansion, which is approximately 7.15% of the population of the county; and

WHEREAS, from May 2023 to May 2024 in Yellowstone County, expanded Medicaid supported preventative health care services for 10,072 people in Yellowstone County; mental health services for 6,916 people in Yellowstone County; and substance use disorder treatment for 1,531 people in Yellowstone County; and

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WHEREAS, employers benefit from Montana Medicaid by having healthier employees through the cost avoidance of not paying for private health insurance and by avoiding tax penalties;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Directors of the Big Sky Economic Development (EDA/EDC) endorses the HELP Act and supports repealing the sunset of the Act and further recognizes our local businesses and the citizens of Yellowstone County have a compelling interest in ensuring access to health care for a healthier workforce and reduced healthcare costs borne by our local businesses; and

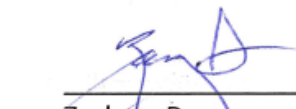
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Big Sky Economic Development (EDA/EDC) strongly requests our legislative delegation and the Montana Legislature protect health care coverage for the 7.15% of Yellowstone County residents by removing the sunset on expanded Medicaid.

APPROVED ON THIS 11<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF July, 2024 BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE BIG SKY EDA AND EDC.

  
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Andy Gott  
Board Chair, Big Sky EDC

  
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Jennifer Kobza  
Secretary/Treasurer, Big Sky EDC

  
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Riley Bennett  
Board Chair, Big Sky EDA

  
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Zachary Dunn  
Secretary/Treasurer, Big Sky EDA