

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF MAINTAINING THE CURRENT MEDICAID PROGRAM
INCLUDING THE PROVISIONS OF THE 2015 HELP ACT**

**ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
BIG SANDY MEDICAL CENTER**

WHEREAS:

1. Big Sandy Medical Center (BSMC) exists to improve the health of the patients and communities it serves;
2. The survival of BSMC is critically important to the health and well-being of our community;
3. 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;
4. The BSMC Board of Trustees has a fiduciary responsibility to the 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 the BSMC Board of Trustees expresses its full and complete commitment to:

1. Taking action to educate and inform our staff, Board and patients as to the potential threats of the sunset of the Medicaid expansion in the State of Montana;
2. Strongly requesting our Montana 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;
3. Fully participating with other stakeholders and the Montana Hospital Association (MHA) to demonstrate to the state and federal governments that rural hospitals like ours are an essential part of Montana State and America's commitment to health care and an essential part of the strategy to deliver effective, efficient, and high-quality care.

APPROVED ON THIS DAY, Sept. 26, 2024, BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF BSMC.

Robert W Nelson

Bob Nelson, Board Chair