



2024

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RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE PERMANENT CONTINUATION OF
MONTANA MEDICAID EXPANSION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
KALISPELL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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PROGRAMS

Flathead Area Young
Professionals

Kalispell Chamber
Foundation

Leadership Flathead

**INDUSTRY SECTOR
PARTNERSHIPS**

Discover Kalispell
Manufacturers Alliance
Workforce Development
& Education

WHEREAS, the majority of Kalispell Chamber of Commerce members are small businesses and expanded Medicaid provides small business employees access to vital and affordable healthcare coverage; and

WHEREAS, 20,305 residents of Flathead County, including 4,375 adults and likely employees as of May 2024, are enrolled in Medicaid; and

WHEREAS, the HELP Act (Health and Economic Livelihood Partnership) has played a crucial role in stimulating Flathead County's economy and the Montana Healthcare Foundation's report reveals that the HELP Act has not only created and sustained just under 800 new jobs, but also generated an estimated almost \$53 million in new personal income and fueled \$125 million in additional economic activity to the local economy in 2022; and


WHEREAS, as reported in 2022, the HELP Act has significantly benefited small businesses, allowing them to attract and retain employees, thereby contributing to economic stability, productivity, and growth; and

WHEREAS, ensuring and sustaining a healthy workforce is paramount to addressing our state's workforce shortages by ensuring that working-age adults in our state remain able to work; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Directors of the Kalispell Chamber of Commerce endorses the HELP Act and supports the permanent continuation and repeal of the sunset of the Act, and further recognizes that our Kalispell and Flathead businesses and the citizens of Montana have a compelling interest in ensuring access to healthcare 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 Kalispell Chamber of Commerce strongly urges our legislative delegation and the Montana Legislature protect healthcare coverage for the almost 100,000 Montanans and the \$2.1 billion economic engine it has created by repealing the sunset of the HELP Act.

Approved on this 20th day of August, 2024 by the Board of Directors of the Kalispell Chamber of Commerce.


Ryan Bowman
Chair of the Board


Lorraine Clarno
President/CEO