



RESOLUTION
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
MONTANA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

WHEREAS, increased access to reliable healthcare is a cornerstone of a viable workforce;

WHEREAS, Montana is a small business state and expanded Medicaid provides small business employees access to affordable healthcare coverage;

WHEREAS, numerous reports and studies have independently demonstrated the HELP Act has significantly benefited more than 110,000 Montanans who have received health care coverage as of July 30, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the HELP Act has improved health outcomes, increased the financial health of our residents, and created a healthier workforce; and

WHEREAS, a joint study conducted in 2019 by the Montana Department of Labor and Industry, Montana Department of Revenue and Montana Department of Health and Human Services reported that 18,000 Montana businesses employ workers enrolled in Montana Medicaid; and

WHEREAS, the 2019 study further found that 98 percent of Montana businesses with more than 50 employees had at least one employee enrolled in Montana Medicaid and most businesses employing Montana Medicaid clients are small businesses; and

WHEREAS, the HELP Act has significantly stimulated Montana's economy according to the Montana Healthcare Foundation which reported that the HELP Act has created and sustained over 7,500 new jobs, generated an estimated \$475 million in new personal income, and fueled \$775 million in additional economic activity to Montana's economy in 2022; and

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

WHEREAS, as reported in 2019, the HELP Act has served as an economic incentive for small businesses by providing health coverage worth \$353.6 million to \$941.2 million to nearly 60 percent of Montana employers; and



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

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Directors of the Montana Chamber of Commerce endorses the HELP Act and supports repealing the sunset of the Act and further recognizes our local businesses and the citizens of Montana have a compelling interest in ensuring access to health care for a healthier workforce and reduced health care costs borne by our local businesses; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Montana Chamber of Commerce strongly requests our legislative delegation and the Montana Legislature protect health care 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 24 DAY OF October, 2023 BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MONTANA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Nancy Schlepp
Board Chair
Montana Chamber of Commerce

Todd O'Hair
President/CEO
Montana Chamber of Commerce