

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF MEDICAID EXPANSION  
ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF  
CMSC, LLC d/b/a GREAT FALLS HOSPITAL  
December 18, 2024

WHEREAS, CMSC, LLC owns and operates a hospital known as “Great Falls Hospital”, which exists to improve the health of the patients and communities we serve; and

WHEREAS, a significant body of research, studies and reports indicate that having health coverage is key to improving the health status of a community; and

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; and

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 46% for residents of Cascade County since Medicaid expansion was implemented; and

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; and

WHEREAS, in 2024, Medicaid expansion in Cascade County has improved health outcomes and led to early detection of disease, including breast cancer screenings and treatment for 589 women, 297 colon cancer screenings which potentially averted 94 cases of cancer, mental health services for 3,148 patients, and substance abuse treatment for 780 patients; and

WHEREAS, Montana has the 13<sup>th</sup> 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); and

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 Cascade

County, Medicaid expansion has supported 696 jobs, \$44.8 million in personal income and \$107.5 million in local economic activity; and

WHEREAS, Great Falls Hospital has remained financially viable due in part to a reduction in uncompensated care levels since Medicaid expansion took effect; and

WHEREAS, Great Falls Hospital is currently facing unprecedented financial pressures resulting from an increase in expenses (driven by post-pandemic forces including a shortage of healthcare workers and reliance on temporary contractors, increased prices for drugs and other supplies); and

WHEREAS, the payments received for caring for Medicaid patients represents revenue that supports the financial stability of our organization for all who depend on us for care; and

WHEREAS, residents from our service area receive care not only from us but several other Montana hospitals, independent physicians and health services, and the ability of these providers to remain financially viable and continue to provide care to all patients may be negatively impacted by significant changes to or the sunset of Medicaid expansion in Montana; and

WHEREAS, the Great Falls Hospital Board of Directors has a fiduciary responsibility to our 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, Great Falls Hospital endorses Montana's current Medicaid expansion program, supports repealing the sunset of the program, and further recognizes our patients, caregivers, and the citizens of Cascade County have a compelling interest in ensuring Great Falls Hospital remains financially viable and an economic engine for our surrounding area;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Great Falls Hospital approves of the distribution of this Resolution to the relevant legislative delegation and the Montana Legislature in order to (a) encourage a repeal of the sunset of the Medicaid Reform and Integrity Act passed in 2019 and (b) to further promote the protection of healthcare coverage for low-income Montanans and the \$775 million economic engine it has created.

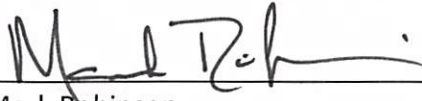
#### **OMNIBUS PROVISIONS:**

1. This Resolution may be executed in one or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed to be an original copy of this Resolution and all of which, when taken together, shall be deemed to constitute one and the same agreement. Counterparts may be delivered via facsimile, electronic mail (including pdf or any electronic signature complying with the U.S. federal E-SIGN

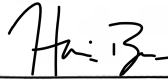
Act of 2000, e.g., www.docusign.com) or other transmission method and any counterpart so delivered shall be deemed to have been duly and validly delivered and be valid and effective for all purposes.

2. The exchange of copies of this Resolution and of signature pages by facsimile transmission (whether directly from one facsimile device to another by means of a dial-up connection or whether otherwise transmitted via electronic transmission), by electronic mail in "portable document format" (PDF) form, or by any other electronic means intended to preserve the original graphic and pictorial appearance of a document, or by a combination of such means, shall constitute effective execution and delivery of this Resolution as to the parties and may be used in lieu of an original Resolution for all purposes. Signatures of the parties transmitted by facsimile or other electronic transmission shall be deemed to be original signatures for all purposes.

APPROVED ON THIS DAY, DECEMBER 18, 2024, BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF CMSC, LLC  
d/b/a GREAT FALLS HOSPITAL.



Mark Robinson



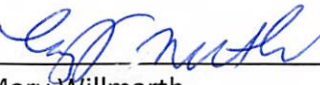
Harry Bane



Alex Reynolds



Lisa Von Bergen



Mary Willmarth