

The Bozeman Area Chamber of Commerce Resolution of Support for the Current Montana Medicaid Program

I, Daryl W. Schliem the CEO of the Bozeman Area Chamber of Commerce, hereby certify that the following is true and a complete copy of a resolution of the Bozeman Area Chamber of Commerce by a vote of the members of the board members at our regular scheduled board meeting taking place on February, 26, 2025.

Purpose: A resolution that supports the reauthorization of the Montana Medicaid program to ensure continued availability of health insurance coverage through Medicaid for low-income, working Montanans.

Whereas: an overwhelming majority of Montanans — 84% — support reauthorizing the current Montana Medicaid program.

Whereas: The current Medicaid program in Montana:

- Supports job growth, personal spending and economic growth throughout the state.
- Creates savings for both patients and the public by giving Medicaid recipients easier access to primary care, in turn avoiding more expensive emergency room visits down the line.
- Helps hospitals and other healthcare providers provide vital services for a population that critically needs access to primary and preventive care services.

Whereas: The Montana Medicaid program supports a strong workforce by allowing low-income, working people to access primary and preventive care services that keep them healthy and showing up to work. A healthy, productive workforce is good for employers, good for families and good for Montana's economy.

Whereas: Many businesses across the state simply cannot afford to provide costly commercial insurance, so they rely on Montana Medicaid's current program to provide their employees with the stable, affordable coverage they need.

Whereas: During a time in which Montana is facing a mental health and substance abuse crisis, the current Montana Medicaid program plays an important role in enabling low-income, working Montanans to access care they wouldn't otherwise be able to afford, including counseling and substance use disorder treatment.

Whereas: Medicaid funding is a crucial lifeline for various healthcare services that our communities rely on. From dentists and local pharmacies to independent doctors, treatment centers, social workers and physical therapists, the positive health impacts extend far beyond hospital walls and support services throughout the entire community.

Whereas: The current Montana Medicaid program helps keep healthcare costs in check for those not on Medicaid. Changing Montana's current Medicaid program would mean more than 80,000 people would lose their health insurance coverage. Fewer people eligible for Medicaid could create a domino effect that significantly burdens the people of Montana and the healthcare system that cares for them.

Therefore, let it be resolved by the Bozeman Area Chamber of Commerce that,

- **Section 1:** The Bozeman Area Chamber of Commerce supports keeping the current Montana Medicaid program in place.
- **Section 2:** The Bozeman Area Chamber of Commerce will compose a letter of support for the bill and send it to locally elected officials.



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