



**POSITION STATEMENT OF
MONTANA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
ON
MEDICAID EXPANSION
Adopted February 23, 2019**

WHEREAS, Numerous reports and studies authored by the University of Montana, including well respected consulting firms, have independently demonstrated the HELP Act has significantly benefited more than 95,000 Montanans who have received health care coverage as of October 1, 2018, representing 9.3% of our state's population; and

WHEREAS, The HELP Act has improved health outcomes by allowing individual/families with barriers to care to access medical homes where trusting health care relationships are developed. This allows for early detection of disease and ensured 7,026 women received breast cancer screenings, averted 2,313 possible cases of colon cancer, provided 28,683 patients with outpatient mental health services, delivered outpatient substance abuse treatment to 7,146 adults, in total 86,995 adults received preventive services from HELP Act benefits; and

WHEREAS, There will be extensive cost savings reaped because of increased engagement with preventative services in future years through early detection of disease; and

WHEREAS, Montana's nationwide health ranking has increased to #21, our highest ranking in more than a decade; and

WHEREAS, Health care is the largest source of private sector income in Montana, representing 1 in 5 dollars earned and the second largest source of private sector employment representing 15.6% of the industry total, paying 25% higher than the statewide average; and

WHEREAS, The HELP Act has significantly stimulated Montana's economy according to the University of Montana's Bureau of Business and Economic Research, which reported that as the result of the HELP Act, 5,000 new jobs, \$270 million in personal income and \$500 million in additional economic output has been added to Montana's economy. Additionally, the HELP Act is expected to generate \$1.2 billion in personal income and \$2.6 billion in economic output or new sales; and

WHEREAS, The HELP Act has served as an economic incentive for small businesses unable to provide health insurance by making coverage available for working Montanans and generating \$36 million in state budget savings by using federal funds to pay for state programs, freeing up state tax dollars for other priorities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The Board of Trustees of the Montana Medical Association endorses the HELP Act and supports repealing the sunset of the Act and further recognizes our patients, caregivers, and the citizens of Montana have a compelling interest in ensuring our physician clinics and hospitals remain financially viable and an economic engine for our state; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees of the Montana Medical Association strongly requests the Montana Legislature to repeal the sunset of the HELP Act and protect health care coverage for almost 100,000 Montanans and the \$2.6 billion economic engine it has created.

Submitted by

Carter E Beck, M.D., Chair

Dated February 23, 2019