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PHOTO TO INCLUDE: Longcake 2025

Longcake Receives the Montana Medical Association Award of Merit

Helena, MT, October 2, 2025 – The Montana Medical Association (MMA) is pleased to announce Kimberly Longcake, NP of Helena as a recipient of *MMA Award of Merit* during the 147th MMA Annual Meeting on September 12th.

Kimberly Longcake, ANP, was recognized for her instrumental work in shaping healthcare policy to streamline prior authorization requirements in Montana. Prior authorization is a requirement that health insurers put in place to determine whether costly medical procedures or medications are medically needed. Prior authorization often leads to delays in patient treatment and has increased administrative burdens.

Ms. Longcake's leadership to ensure patient and clinician voices were heard during legislative hearings on reform efforts was recognized as a critical component to gaining bipartisan support. She mobilized families and colleagues to share their stories which resulted in compelling, impactful hearings that highlighted the real-world consequences of delayed care due to prior authorization requirements.

"Kimberly Longcake has made lasting contributions through her active role in a coalition that successfully reduced delays in patient care and administrative burdens for healthcare professionals, culminating in the passage of multiple prior authorization reform bills during the 2025 Montana legislative session," state MMA President Ernest Gray, MD.

Beyond this legislative achievement, Ms. Longcake was also celebrated as an exceptional clinician and advocate. She skillfully bridges clinical practice with systems-level change—working with patients, colleagues, insurers, and state agencies to ensure better access to care. Her dedication and unique ability to navigate complex policy and healthcare landscapes have left a lasting impact within the Montana healthcare delivery environment.

The Award of Merit, established in 1975, recognizes individuals associated with MMA whose actions have led to the betterment of health care in Montana. This award recognizes individuals and teams who demonstrate exceptional dedication to advancing the health of Montanans and supporting physicians through visionary leadership, collaboration, and advocacy.

About the Montana Medical Association

The Montana Medical Association is a membership organization comprised of Montana physicians dedicated to improving patient care. Our mission is to serve our members as an advocate for the medical profession, quality patient care, and the health of all Montana citizens. The MMA is the largest physician-led organization in Montana, with nearly 1,700 members.