

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 30

INTRODUCED BY WEINBERG, COBB, JAYNE, KAUFMANN, LIND, MORGAN

BY REQUEST OF THE HOUSE JOINT APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA URGING CONGRESS TO MAINTAIN THE INTEGRITY OF THE MEDICAID PROGRAM AND TO NOT SUPPORT THE PROPOSED PROGRAM REDUCTIONS INCLUDED IN THE EXECUTIVE BUDGET REQUEST TO CONGRESS.

WHEREAS, MEDICAID PROGRAMS PROVIDE A VERY BASIC COMPONENT OF THE SAFETY NET FOR MANY MONTANANS; AND

WHEREAS, MEDICAID PROGRAMS SUPPORT THE DISABLED, ELDERLY, CHILDREN, AND PREGNANT WOMEN AND THE POOREST OF THE POOR; AND

WHEREAS, PROPOSED FEDERAL MEDICAID CUTS COULD HARM A GREAT MANY VULNERABLE MONTANANS WHO COULD SUFFER DEVASTATING HEALTH AND ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES AS A RESULT OF FEDERAL MEDICAID CUTS; AND

WHEREAS, PER CAPITA INCOMES IN MONTANA ARE PROPORTIONALLY LOWER THAN THE NATIONAL AVERAGE, AND A LARGE NUMBER OF MONTANANS RELY ON MEDICAID PROGRAMS; AND

WHEREAS, MONTANA ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS FOR MEDICAID PROGRAMS ARE AT OR NEAR FEDERALLY REQUIRED MINIMUM ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS; AND

WHEREAS, MONTANA IS A RURAL STATE WITH A VERY LOW POPULATION DENSITY THROUGHOUT MOST OF THE STATE, AND THE PUBLIC MEDICAID HEALTH SYSTEM HELPS ENSURE THAT SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE STATEWIDE FOR ALL PERSONS; AND

WHEREAS, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH SURPLUS FUNDS TO OFFSET MEDICAID FUNDING REDUCTIONS FOR LOCAL NURSING HOMES AND HOSPITALS; AND

WHEREAS, Medicaid is a vital component of the health care industry in Montana, representing 17% of the total health care spending in Montana; and

WHEREAS, Montana has made diligent efforts to comply with the letter and spirit of federal Medicaid regulations, especially regarding intergovernmental transfers and provider taxes used as state matching funds; and



