



A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING CONTINUED MONITORING OF EFFORTS TO MAKE HEALTH CARE COSTS MORE UNDERSTANDABLE.

WHEREAS, the process of establishing prices for health care procedures involves multiple and complex factors; and

WHEREAS, the costs to Montanans for the same procedure may vary widely depending on whether a person has insurance coverage and on where and by whom the procedure is performed; and

WHEREAS, even for Montanans with insurance, the out-of-pocket costs for the same procedures may vary depending on the parameters of an individual's insurance policy; and

WHEREAS, Montanans will be able to make better-informed decisions that best meet their personal needs if they are able to obtain information about health care procedures and costs by region, facility, and provider; and

WHEREAS, the Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee discussed this issue of transparency in health care pricing with representatives of health care facilities, providers, and insurers during the 2007-08 interim; and

WHEREAS, MHA - An Association of Montana Health Care Providers is in the process of developing a website, independent of legislative activities, that is designed to make health care pricing information available by facility, region, and provider; and

WHEREAS, the 2007-08 Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee believed the MHA's independent website held promise for providing much-needed information to Montanans and that monitoring of this and other pricing transparency efforts should continue in the 2009-10 interim.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

That MHA and representatives of health care facilities, providers, and insurers provide updates as

needed to the Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee during the 2009-10 interim about the MHA website and other transparency-related efforts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Committee determine whether the MHA website is meeting the needs of Montanans and whether additional steps should be taken to improve a consumer's ability to obtain understandable information about health care procedures and prices.

- END -

I hereby certify that the within joint resolution,  
SJ 0005, originated in the Senate.

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Secretary of the Senate

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President of the Senate

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day  
of \_\_\_\_\_, 2009.

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Speaker of the House

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day  
of \_\_\_\_\_, 2009.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 5

INTRODUCED BY R. LAIBLE

BY REQUEST OF THE CHILDREN, FAMILIES, HEALTH, AND HUMAN SERVICES INTERIM COMMITTEE

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