

## SB 351 Fact Sheet

News that the Montana Medicaid program wants to establish a five-county managed care demonstration program rekindled memories of the failed mental health managed care plan of the mid-1990's and focused new attention on the adequacy of the state's statutes governing Medicaid managed care plans.

SB 351 is the response to these concerns. It would modify Medicaid managed care statutes to prevent a recurrence of the problems beneficiaries and providers faced with the mental health managed care plan.

We do not oppose managed care for Medicaid beneficiaries; however, if Montana chooses this approach, we want to make sure it is done right, that access to services is not restricted, the managed care entity is accountable and that the process for developing the plan is transparent and involves all stakeholders.

SB 351 would achieve these goals in several ways. Specifically, it would:

- Require any Medicaid managed care contractor to be a licensed insurance carrier in the state of Montana and comply with the network adequacy, quality assurance, solvency and other requirements for licensed insurance carriers in the state.
- Require the state auditor's office and the legislative auditor to analyze a request for proposal and proposed contract for actuarial soundness, network adequacy and consumer choice.
- Use an advisory council to educate Medicaid beneficiaries, providers and other stakeholders about the plan and hold public hearings to gather comments about the plan.
- Require an independent verification that a contractor can fulfill the terms and requirements of the contract.

Supporters of SB 315 include: the Montana Hospital Association, the Montana Health Care Association, the Montana Medical Association, the five Catholic Hospitals (Billings, Miles City, Butte, Missoula, Polson), Easter Seals-Goodwill NRM (Great Falls), Billings Clinic, Shodair Children's Hospital (Helena), St. Peter's Hospital (Helena), Benefis Health System (Great Falls), Bozeman Deaconess Hospital, the Montana Council for Maternal & Child Health.