

Yellowstone County



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March 25, 2013

Dear Chairman David Howard and House Human Services Committee Members,

I would like to ask for your support for HB590, Medicaid Expansion.

In Yellowstone County, we have many eligible residents for the Medicaid program.

They have fallen through the cracks and now we have an opportunity to help them get services at the most cost effective means as possible.

I have been Chairman of the Mental Health Center in Billings for the past 19 years and our chemical dependency clients have escalated. With no new dollars from the state, this will push these folks back to the counties and cities for services, which means jail and law enforcement time. The Community Crisis Center is full every night and the Mental Health Center HUB (Drop-in Center) is running at 160 clients daily.

The expansion is funded at 100% then 90% and most states have opted in. This will also be beneficial to our two medical centers.

Feel free to call me for any information you need. Please give HB590 a do pass.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Kennedy".

Bill Kennedy
Yellowstone County Commissioner

BK/ptb