

April 15, 2013

Montana Organizing Project  
PO Box 438  
Billings, MT 59103

Dear Chairman and Members of Health Human Services,

Montana Organizing Project is a grassroots coalition of faith, labor, and community organizations with members across the state from Baker to Browning, MT. Our organization promotes social, racial, and economic justice. We advocate for Montana values of protecting our neighbors, supporting our communities and dignity for all Montanans.

We strongly support SB 395 for the following reasons:

- Medicaid Expansion will help 60,000-70,000 Montanans achieve access to health care, providing much needed care and improving overall health.
- In addition to increasing access to healthcare, Medicaid supports county economies on many levels. The direct benefits of Medicaid are the most obvious: in paying for health care services for Medicaid recipients, Medicaid spending directly purchases goods and services and supports health care industry jobs.
- Medicaid spending leads directly to jobs in Montana's counties. Including multiplier effects, Medicaid spending in SFY2011 produced over 11,000 jobs in Montana.
- Medicaid makes up a vital portion of the economy for Montana's counties. Because of the federal match these programs receive and the economic activity they create, state spending on these programs has a dramatic positive economic impact, and Medicaid Expansion will increase that impact.

Please take this under consideration and vote to send SB 395 to the House Floor. Legislation of such magnitude deserves to be heard by the full body.

Sincerely,

Sheena Rice, Montana Organizing Project  
Bert Chessin, President of the Board, Montana Organizing Project



**Community. Faith. Labor. Montana's Movement**

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