

Montana Medicaid Expansion & Community Health Centers



EXHIBIT 10
 DATE 2.18.15
 HB 455

Community Health Centers (CHCs) are independent non-profit or public health care practices with a mission to provide comprehensive primary care to all Montanans, with a focus on underserved and vulnerable communities.

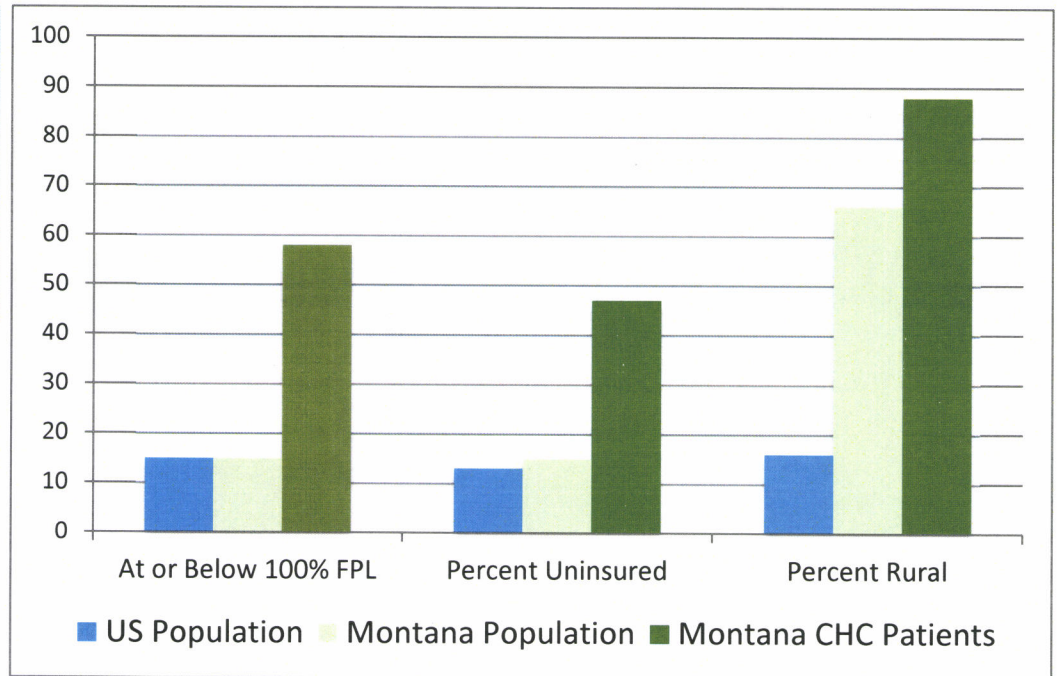
Montana's 18 CHCs and look-alike clinics provide a health care home to more than 100,000 Montanans. CHCs are patient centered primary care clinics. Many CHCs provide integrated medical, behavioral, dental, and pharmacy services. All health centers provide services on a sliding fee scale and are governed by a board comprised of a majority of health center patients. This unique structure allows health centers to understand and address some of the barriers that patients face and provide wraparound services that address these barriers, such as transportation, case management, and health education.

Montana Community Health Centers:

- Serve more than 100,000 patients
- 58% of patients are below 100% of the federal poverty level
- 88% of patients are below 200% of the federal poverty level
- 47% of patients are uninsured
- Serve patients at 90 sites across Montana
- Employ more than 720 FTE staff

More than 1 in 10 Montanans receives care at a health center

58% of health center patients are below 100% of the federal poverty level



Community Health Center Patients Need Medicaid Expansion

More than a quarter of all Montanans who are at or below 100% of the federal poverty level receive care at a community health center. Many of these patients are uninsured. The primary care services provided by a CHC are not sufficient to meet all of these patients' needs. Without insurance, uninsured Montanans in the Medicaid coverage gap cannot afford to see the specialists, get the diagnostic tests, or purchase the medications prescribed by their primary care provider. For example, an uninsured patient who is diagnosed with a heart condition may not be able to afford a visit to a cardiologist or the specialty medications for their condition.

Sources: Bureau of Primary Health Care, HRSA, DHHS, 2013 Uniform Data System; Montana Budget and Policy Center; Capital Link, Inc., & CHAMPS Region VIII Health Center Survey.

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Medicaid Expansion Will Strengthen Community Health Centers and the Health Care Safety Net

More than a quarter of Montana's population, both insured and uninsured residents, is experiencing a primary care shortage. More than 90% of rural Montanans live in a shortage area. Health centers are a proven model to increase access to primary care to our most underserved and vulnerable communities. However, without Medicaid expansion, it is challenging to recruit and retain a primary care workforce. A regional survey of physician salaries shows that providers in states with Medicaid expansion are paid more than those in states without Medicaid expansion. Expansion would allow health centers to better compete and continue to improve access to primary care.

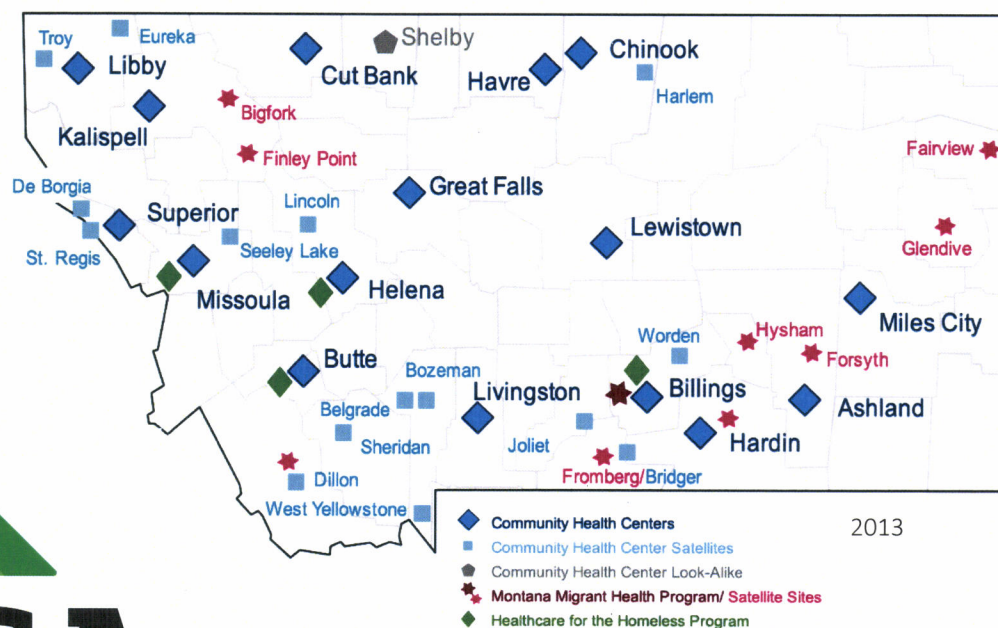
Health centers are local economic drivers. A study by Capitol Link found the Montana Community Health Centers infused more than \$52 million into local economies annually with an overall economic impact of more than \$119 million.

Montana Community Health Centers provided \$20.9 million in uncompensated care in 2013

Medicaid expansion would go a long way to reducing uncompensated care and strengthening Montana's community health centers. In 2013, Montana CHCs provided almost \$21 million in uncompensated care. A reduction in uncompensated care will help ensure that Montana health centers are not only able to continue to provide excellent patient centered care, but it will also help CHCs strengthen the health care safety net through expanded services and improved access to care.

"Medicaid expansion would mean additional resources for CHP to partner with community mental health centers to coordinate care for mentally ill members of our communities. It would allow us to invest in much-needed capital improvement projects, provide salary increases to our employees, and investigate additional service expansion opportunities in response to need."

- Lander Cooney, CEO, Community Health Partners and MPCA Board Chair



Paid for by the Montana Primary Care Association, Bob Marsalli, CEO
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February 10, 2015
To the Montana Legislators,

We would like to make a statement as members of the first expanded (30 member) Montana WWAMI medical school class, writing from rainy Seattle where we are now in our second year of training. We have been watching the Medicaid Expansion news with hope.

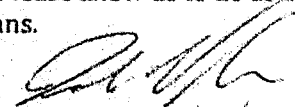
As the future doctors of our state, we whole-heartedly support Medicaid Expansion. We know that there are a few versions of an expansion bill on the table, and we would like to see a bill passed that expands coverage for *everyone* in the Medicaid Gap; i.e. one that is as true to the original Affordable Care Act bill as is politically feasible.

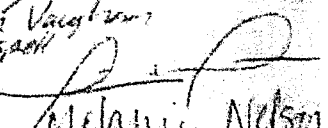
We recognize the inequities in our current healthcare system and understand the need for change. We want to be a part of this change, and we prefer to practice medicine in a state where its leaders support the health of all people. Many of us wish to return to the rural Montana communities from which we grew and provide high-quality primary and specialist care. A more equitable system is not only medically imperative for the people of Montana, but such a system will also empower us to be our best as providers.

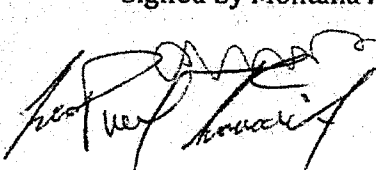
Through our medical training, we are committing ourselves to our future patients. As legislators, you have made a commitment to these same communities. Please allow us to do as our profession calls us to do - to serve the health and dignity of *all* Montanans.

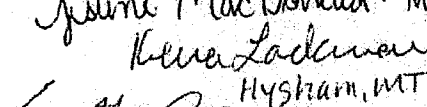
Please pass full Medicaid Expansion.

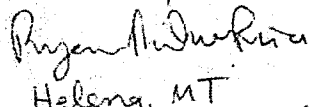
Signed by Montana medical students E-2013:

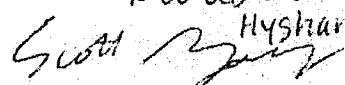

Jordan Vagstad
Kalispell

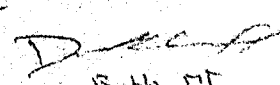

Melanic Nelson
Kalispell, MT

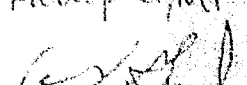

Justine MacDonald - Missoula, MT



Keren Ladman
Hysham, MT

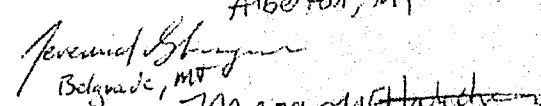

Piyen Indurkha
Helena, MT

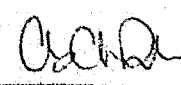

Scott
Alberta, MT

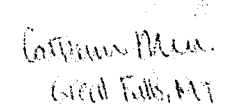

David
Billings, MT

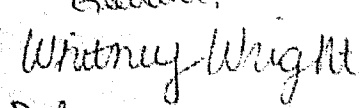

David
Missoula - MT

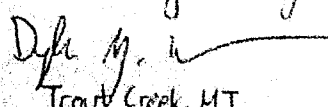

Jeremiah
Belgrade, MT

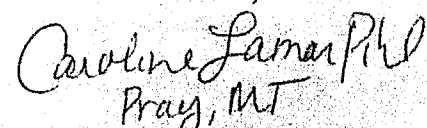

Megan
Bozeman, MT

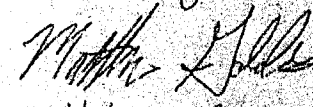

Cecelia
Glenview, MT

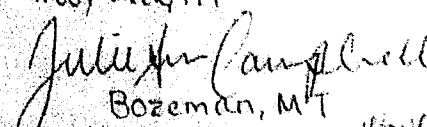

Catherine
Great Falls, MT

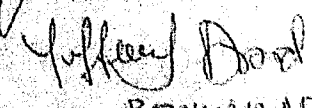

Whitney
Wright

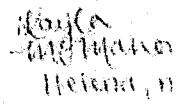

Dyl
Trout Creek, MT

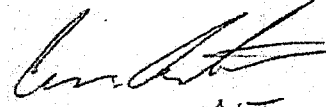

Caroline Lamar
Pray, MT

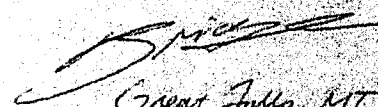

Matthew
Helena, MT

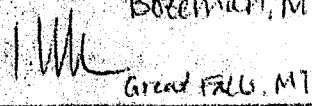

Julie
Bozeman, MT

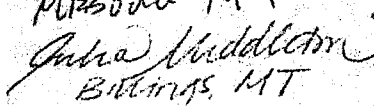

Jeffrey
Bozeman, MT

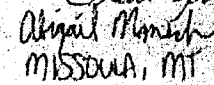

Julia
Helena, MT


Andrea
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Angela
Great Falls, MT


I.M.
Great Falls, MT


Angela
Billings, MT


Angela
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