

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 25

INTRODUCED BY JUNEAU, BALLANTYNE, BERGREN, BLACK, CALLAHAN, E. CLARK, COBB,
DICKENSON, FRANKLIN, GALVIN-HALCRO, GOLIE, HANSEN, KITZENBERG, LEHMAN, MCKENNEY,
MUSGROVE, PARKER, RIPLEY, ROUSH, B. RYAN, D. RYAN, SCHMIDT, TESTER, TROPILA, WILSON,
WITT, MANGAN

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA TO SUPPORT THE GRASSROOTS EFFORTS OF THE NORTHCENTRAL MONTANA COMMUNITY VENTURES PROJECT TO DETERMINE STRATEGIES TO REDUCE POVERTY IN NORTHCENTRAL MONTANA AND TO SUPPORT THE NORTHCENTRAL MONTANA COMMUNITY VENTURES PROJECT IN ITS EFFORTS TO OBTAIN FUNDING FROM THE NORTHWEST AREA FOUNDATION.

WHEREAS, an 11-county area of northcentral Montana is one of four finalists competing in eight states for funding from the Northwest Area Foundation for a multiyear, intensive project to reduce poverty; and

WHEREAS, individuals, organizations, and units of local governments in Glacier, Toole, Pondera, Teton, Cascade, Liberty, Hill, Blaine, Phillips, Chouteau, and Judith Basin Counties, along with tribal governments of the Blackfeet, Fort Belknap, Rocky Boy, and Little Shell Band of Chippewa, have worked together under the umbrella of the Northcentral Montana Community Ventures Project for more than a year to cooperatively identify the root causes of poverty and to define poverty as it exists in northcentral Montana; and

WHEREAS, the Indian communities of northcentral Montana have been an integral component in the project planning; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of Montana citizens throughout northcentral Montana have participated in a dynamic planning process, a process through which the Northcentral Montana Community Ventures Project sought to ensure broad and diverse participation, including dialogues with individuals and families living in poverty; and

WHEREAS, the 11-county northcentral Montana area already has received a generous contribution of \$600,000 from the Northwest Area Foundation to assist in the design stage of a final plan to identify strategies for reducing poverty in northcentral Montana; and

WHEREAS, the Northwest Area Foundation has identified three communities in other states in addition to the 11-county area in northcentral Montana as potential recipients of funding in its grassroots,

community-based Community Ventures Program but will provide final funding to only one or two areas; and

WHEREAS, the reduction of poverty is an important public policy goal of the State of Montana; and

WHEREAS, if this project application is successful, the 11 counties in northcentral Montana will be strengthened in their efforts to reduce poverty, thus strengthening all of Montana.

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

That the Montana Legislature formally support the application of the Northcentral Montana Community Ventures Project to the Northwest Area Foundation for development and implementation of a strategic, long-term plan to assist in reducing rates of poverty in an 11-county area of northcentral Montana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send copies of this joint resolution to the Northwest Area Foundation, to the Northcentral Montana Community Ventures Project, and to the tribal governments of the Blackfeet, Fort Belknap, and Rocky Boy Reservations and the Little Shell Band of Chippewa.

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