

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 9

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A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S CUTS TO THE MEDICARE PROGRAM UNDER THE PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT TO FUND MEDICAID EXPANSION.

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, 183,364 older residents of Montana were enrolled in the Medicare program in 2013; and

WHEREAS, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 reduces Medicare payments for hospitals and skilled nursing services, home health visits, and hospital services by \$716 billion over the next 10 years; and

WHEREAS, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act cuts are made across the board without concerns for the impact on the value or quality of care Montana residents would receive; and

WHEREAS, an actuary for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has projected that the Medicare cuts in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act will cause 15% of hospitals and nursing homes to stop accepting Medicare patients over the next 10 years; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services actuary has projected that 40% of hospitals will be unprofitable by 2015 due to the Medicare cuts in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; and

WHEREAS, Montana's older residents who are enrolled in Medicare are set to experience an average cut in benefits of \$2,780 by 2017 because of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; and

WHEREAS, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act cuts in Medicare will lead to 5 million to 7 million seniors nationally being forced off their Medicare Advantage plans over the next 6 years; and

WHEREAS, 17% of Medicare beneficiaries in Montana were enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan; and

WHEREAS, 14,202 seniors in Montana will be forced off their current Medicare Advantage plan by 2017 due to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, with roughly 9,000 seniors already receiving notices that their plans have been or will be canceled; and

WHEREAS, reductions to Medicare Advantage will result in seniors losing extra benefits available in the

1 program, including but not limited to dental care, hearing coverage, podiatry coverage, transportation benefits,
2 travel benefits, an integrated drug benefit, and limits on out-of-pocket maximum expenses; and

3 WHEREAS, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act cuts to Medicare Advantage plans will
4 disproportionately impact low-income seniors, as those making between \$10,800 and \$21,600 are 19% more
5 likely to be enrolled when compared to traditional Medicare enrollees; and

6 WHEREAS, seniors will face fewer choices of insurance plans and doctors, higher out-of-pocket costs,
7 and reduced benefits under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act cuts to Medicare.

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

11 That the Montana Senate and House of Representatives stand with older residents of the state to call
12 on the federal government to use the money not spent on Medicaid expansion and instead use it to reverse the
13 painful cuts, loss of choice, and loss of benefits for seniors in Medicare under the Patient Protection and
14 Affordable Care Act.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that before extending Medicaid to working-age, able-bodied childless
16 adults under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, the federal government should keep its promises
17 to our most vulnerable seniors.

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