



The Big Sky Country

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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To: Dick Brown, Montana Hospital Association
Erin McLean, for the Montana Medical Association
Lieutenant Governor John Bohlinger for the Labor Management Advisory Council
Jerry Keck, Department of Labor and Industry

Cc: Margaret Morgan, Rehabilitation Association of Montana
Mark Staples, Montana Chiropractic Association

As you know, the Economic Affairs Advisory Council (EAIC) voted to adopt the Labor Management Advisory Committees' (LMAC) proposal on revising Montana workers' compensation laws as a committee bill at its August meeting. At the September EAIC meeting, after hearing concerns raised by the medical community about the proposed restructuring of medical fees, the committee adopted a motion to work with the parties to see if those concerns could be addressed. I was assigned sponsorship of the bill, and was asked to work with the parties prior to the session.

I have informally discussed the issue with all of the parties over the past few weeks, and have decided to hold several meetings between the affected groups. I am inviting you and other representatives of your group to join a workgroup on this issue. The first meeting will be held on October 19th, from 9:00 A.M. until noon. I expect a limited number of meetings, and a completion date for our work no later than December 1st.

The purpose of our 1st meeting will be to work on getting on the same page regarding the financial data underlying the LMAC proposal. The LMAC proposal was based upon financial data generated by the Department of Labor and its financial consultant. Other parties have suggested that the Department's data does not mesh with their own. We will attempt to reconcile the data differences as the 1st step of our process. I see the first meeting largely as an exchange of data and a review of the areas where the parties have different views of that data.