

January 19, 2023

Public Comment for House Bill 2 – Health & Human Services

**Childcare Funding**

- “The childcare shortage and childcare affordability crisis are hurting Montana families and our economy. Some families are paying as much for childcare as they are for housing. We need to cap the cost of childcare for MT families and revise the reimbursement structure to bring more stability to childcare providers – like HB 238 calls for”

-Robyn King

- “Quality, affordable childcare is so important for our economy. Our community in Havre already has a daycare shortage as well as skyrocketing costs. As a working mom I pay \$640 in childcare costs per month. Not only do we have an affordability crisis, we have an availability crisis.”

Lindsey Ratliff

**Medicaid Funding & Eligibility**

- “Please support funding for Tribal Community Members. The DPHHS and the Governor have unfortunately made it much simpler to deny health care coverage by changing the Medicaid eligibility rules, which will disproportionately affect Tribal health care services.

The DPHHS should restore continuous eligibility and determine eligibility requirements in a more responsible way than by pulling out the rug from underneath Montanans. The current plan is negligent and could kick 43,000 Montanans off their healthcare coverage. We want to be a healthy Montana, not a sick Montana.”

-Lindsey Ratliff