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Creating Opportunities for People with Disabilities
A Non-Profit Corporation

Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Patrick Maddison and I am the CEO for Flathead Industries in Kalispell, MT. I also am the CEO via contract for Little Bitterroot Services in Plains, MT, Ravalli Services Corporation in Hamilton, MT and Achievements, Inc in Libby, MT. These four agencies provide direct services for residential, day and vocational services to adults with developmental disabilities. Our funding for services is through the Developmental Services Division and the Disability and Disability Employment and Transition Services Division. The funding appropriated by this legislature with a roughly 70 % federal Medicaid match provides services providers a reimbursement for direct services to people with disabilities living in communities across the State. Without these services, the people with disabilities we serve could not live in their communities and a more expensive institutional level of care would be needed for many people with disabilities to survive.

In the four communities in Western Montana, we provide services to over 400 adults with disabilities. To provide the care necessary the agencies combined employ 380 people. Our social impact on our communities is huge and our services to the people with disabilities are vital.

It is also important for us to discuss the economic impact we have on our communities as well. The four communities where we operate community based services also provides over 11 million dollars in wages, 1.1 million dollars to local vendors, and pay over 1.1 million dollars in health insurances. The funding appropriated to community based service provider rates has a huge impact on our local and State economies.

Any reduction in provider rates would directly and negatively impact our ability to provide essential services to some of Montana's most vulnerable citizens, limit wages, decrease jobs and remove funding from our local economies. Thank you for your time, service to MT and support of your local communities.

Sincerely,

Patrick Maddison, CEO Flathead Industries

Details:

Bill: HB-2: General Appropriations Act 2021-01-13 08:00 AM - (H) JAS on Health and Human Services

Position: Informational Witness

Representing an Entity/Another Person: Yes

Organization: Job Connection, Inc - provider (DD, EE, VR & BS)

Name: Diane Reidelbach

Email: dreidelbach@jobconnection.org

Phone: (406) 245-6323

City, State: Billings

Written Statement: I would like to provide a prospective on how the current claims system for a small provider (24FTE) with 94 clients is working. Billing our DD services used to take our Finance Mgr. 2-3 hours. It now takes 2-3 days. We print the screen of the system we are invoicing in because there are no reports. These papers are then entered into our financial system. The invoicing has to be done prior to Wed in order to be processed for the next week. Anything that may be suspended or not processed is held with minimal reasoning. Claims or invoicing that need to be adjusted can take months.



Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Patrick Maddison I am a CEO for community-based provider agencies as well as the Board President for the Montana Association of Community Disability Services (MACDS), our association is comprised of thirty-three community-based organizations in MT that provide residential, employment and day services to children and adults with disabilities. We strongly urge this committee to understand that provider rates cannot be cut. Our rates go directly to private sector wages, direct services to adults and children with disabilities, improve our communities and contribute to a healthy Montana economy.

Collectively we serve children, adults and families across the State. The services our member agencies provide assist people with bathing, toileting, eating, drinking, all other aspects of hygiene, medication administration, access and transportation to medical appointments, access and transportation to recreational activities like movies, community events, shopping, restaurants etc. The services we provide are essential and vital for people and families to live.

The statewide impact of community based services providers is over 115 Million dollars in wages, vendors and insurances. The money appropriated to provider rates has a dramatic impact on care and lives of some of Montana's most vulnerable citizens. Provider rates are also incredibly effective and efficient in the form of wages and vendor payments which greatly contribute to a healthy Montana Economy.

Provider agencies across Montana cannot sustain any reduction in provider rates. Many providers will not be able to continue operation and service provision to people with disabilities. Without our member agencies and others, many people with disabilities could not live in their communities and would require a more expensive institutional like level of care. Please support people with disabilities, our communities and provider agencies.

Thank you for your time and commitment to Montana.

Sincerely,

Patrick Maddison, CEO Flathead Industries and Board President MACDS