



January 25, 2021

Joint Appropriation Subcommittee for Health & Human Services
Montana State Legislature
Montana State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

RE: HB 2: Section B DPHHS – Health Resources Division

Good morning Chairman Regier and members of the Subcommittee:

For the record, my name is Stacey Anderson, Policy Director for the MT Primary Care Association. MPCA is the statewide membership organization for the state's federally qualified community health centers (FQHC) and four of Montana's Urban Indian Clinics (UIC). Combined, MPCA's members serve as the health home for over 122,000 vulnerable and underserved Montanans. Annually, over 40% of our patients are enrolled in a Medicaid program – including traditional Medicaid, Medicaid Expansion, and CHIP.

First, we would like to thank the Department and staff for their presentation today. MPCA has long enjoyed a good working relationship with the staff and appreciates the hard work they do for the people of Montana.

As you heard from Ms. Wiebe, Montana's FQHCs are key partners in the Medicaid program, particularly for the delivery of comprehensive primary care services which includes medical care, dental care, behavioral health, and pharmacy. In addition, FQHCs participate in other programs managed by HRD including the Perinatal Behavioral Health Program and the PCMH Program.

In general, we would like to express our support for Governor Gianforte's budget. We appreciate the work he and his budget director put into crafting a budget that keeps the key programs managed by HRD stable and funded through the biennium. I would note and urge this committee to look carefully at DPs 11891, 11991, and 11993 that requests reduction in the HRD budget for services under Medicaid Expansion and traditional Medicaid. As you learned from Mr. Poulette's presentation, enrollment in Medicaid is trending upward due to lost employment during the pandemic and decreases at this time should be carefully considered.

We hope that this committee will work to bring Section B back into line with the Governor's budget from the starting point motion. It might just be me, but I have not been able to find which programs specifically are impacted by the Starting Point Motion and with a \$600 million impact in this particular division, I have grave concerns that some of the most vulnerable people in Montana will be deeply impacted.

MPCA appreciates the opportunity to comment. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stacey Anderson".

Policy Director
sanderson@mtpca.org
406.442.4228 (c)