

January 25, 2021

Re: HB-2: General Appropriations Act

To Whom It May Concern;

This letter is in support of maintaining the budget under HB-2: General Appropriations Act which would ensure Medicaid funding for Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS) for Medicaid patients. Montana DPHHS recently added Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS) services for the treatment of major depressive disorder. I strongly support this service to be maintained in Montana's mental health system.

Our practice remains committed to treating all payer types in a community service model of psychiatry. We appreciate the sensitivity that MTDPHHS has taken in appropriating funds for severe mental illness in Montana. TMS is a service that our practice provides which has proven to be an invaluable resource for patients who suffer from treatment resistant depression. Montana Medicaid, under the previous budget, committed to reimburse for this service as patients under this payer source had not previously been able to access this treatment. Without maintaining this budget, TMS services for Medicaid patients in Montana are scheduled to be cut altogether.

TMS is a well-established, FDA-approved treatment for depression and with the substantial growth of this service throughout the country further developments have been made through research into more effective protocols and medical indications for TMS. The efficacy and durability of this treatment in our practice has been very positive and I look forward to the opportunity to provide this service to patients under our Medicaid system.

I appreciate your consideration in this critically important issue in our state.

Sincerely,

Jami Eschler, MD and Ana Stan, MD

Psychiatry Associates, PC
2078 Stadium Dr., Ste 101
Bozeman, MT 59715
(406) 587-0810