



David Rolf *President*
Adam Glickman *Secretary-Treasurer*
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September 14, 2015

Honorable Sylvia Mathews Burwell
Secretary U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Burwell,

We are writing to urge you to approve the Montana Medicaid Expansion waiver. The Montana HELP Act is a result of bipartisan work in the 2015 Montana Legislative Session and nearly three years of grassroots efforts leading up to the 2015 Session. The Montana HELP Act truly is a uniquely Montana solution.

A diverse coalition of individuals and organizations worked to expand Medicaid in Montana for the 70,000 Montanans who need and deserve health care. The Montana HELP Act is critical not only to those left without health care, but it provides a financial lifeline to rural hospitals, brings home millions in Montana tax dollars back to our state, and will create 12,000 good paying jobs.

The voices of Montanans were heard. Thousands of Montanans called and emailed into the Montana Capitol switchboard in support of Medicaid expansion, submitted an opinion editorial or letter to the editor, signed in or testified in support, and hundreds more came to Helena to attend a rally or walked the halls of the Capitol talking with their legislators. Tribal members offered a special blessing on the steps of our Capitol the day the Montana HELP Act was signed.

Tens of thousands of Montanans, including a number of SEIU 775 members who are low-wage home care workers, stand to directly benefit from this proposal. Approval of the Montana HELP Act Waiver will result in 70,000 Montanans gaining access to health coverage, including more than 19,000 Native Americans who will be newly eligible. So many individuals that worked on Medicaid Expansion are thrilled at the possibility of getting health coverage. We believe there is no alternative path to get these Montanans health care. The time is now.

Montana is the first state in 20 months to approve a Medicaid expansion compromise legislatively. The Montana waiver is the only new waiver being negotiated currently and lawmakers in states like Wyoming, Tennessee, and Utah are watching these negotiations closely. It is clear that the process and outcome of this negotiation between Montana and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services will have an impact that goes well beyond the 70,000 Montanans who continue to wait for access to health care. The Montana HELP Act is in line with both federal Medicaid law and waivers that CMS has previously approved.

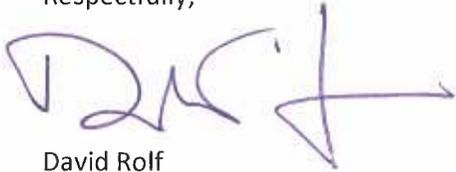
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Our mission is to unite the strength of all working people and our families, to improve our lives and lead the way to a more just and humane world.



Once again, we urge you to approve the Montana Medicaid Expansion waiver.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'DRolf', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

David Rolf
President SEIU 775

Jacquie Helt

Jacquie Helt
Montana State Director