



CROW TRIBE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

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October 13, 2015

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

Re: **Crow Nation letter in support of the State of Montana's Section 1115 Demonstration Waiver Application**

Dear Secretary Burwell:

The Crow Nation is aware that the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services has submitted a Section 1115 Demonstration Waiver to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in regards to the Health and Economic Livelihood Partnership (HELP) program.

Senate Bill 405, which outlines the HELP Act, was likely the most significant piece of legislation in Montana during the 2015 legislative session. It has the potential to provide healthcare to a large population of Montanans, including Indians. Representatives of the Crow Nation were proud to be in the State Capital to support Medicaid Expansion.

The department held a formal consultation with Tribes in August of 2015 and our representatives attended to learn all we could about the particulars of the waiver, its exemptions and alternative benefits plan and most importantly, how it impacts Indians in Montana.

The HELP Act will do just that - help our Crow tribal members gain access to much needed health care coverage, improve their quality of life and ultimately improve the health disparities that currently exist in our state. Please consider Montana's Waiver in earnest and partner with us in making a difference in the lives of others.

Sincerely,

Darrin Old Coyote
Chairman Crow Tribe of Indians

cc: Todd J. Wilson, Crow Tribal Health & Human Services Department Director

The Great Apsaalooke Nation: "Teepee Capitol of the World"