



BLACKFEET NATION

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BLACKFEET TRIBAL BUSINESS COUNCIL

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Cheryl Lynn Little Dog

October 12, 2015

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

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

Dear Secretary Burwell:

The Blackfeet Nation has been actively engaged in the expansion of Medicaid in Montana for quite some time now. We have testified in support of it during the legislative session, stayed abreast of its progress and are fully cognizant that the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services has submitted a Section 1115 Demonstration Waiver in regards to the Health and Economic Livelihood Partnership (HELP) program.

Access to health care services are limited through our current Indian Health Service system here on the Blackfeet Indian reservation. Having health coverage provided through Medicaid for many of our members that will now qualify, will provide much needed health care to the many who are uninsured and don't have the financial resources to purchase health insurance. Most importantly though, it will provide individuals with choice in where they receive services and ultimately put them in charge of their own health care decisions.

On behalf of the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council, we stand in support of the waiver as submitted, its exemptions and alternative benefits plan and are anxious for a timely approval. We look forward to a favorable decision so that implementation can begin immediately.

Sincerely,

Harry Barnes, Chairman
Blackfeet Tribal Business Council

CC: Rosemary Cree Medicine, Tribal Health Director, Blackfeet Nation