

Fort Belknap Indian Community



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Fort Belknap Indian Community
(Tribal Govt.)
Fort Belknap Indian Community
(Elected to administer the affairs of the community and
to represent the Assiniboine and the Gros Ventre
Tribes of the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation)

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: **Support Letter for State of Montana's Section 1115 Demonstration Waiver Application**

Dear Secretary Burwell:

In mid-September of 2015, the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services submitted a Section 1115 Demonstration Waiver to implement the Health and Economic Livelihood Partnership (HELP) program.

The department has been diligent about keeping the Fort Belknap Assiniboine and Gros Ventre Tribes informed of the progress of Medicaid Expansion in Montana. Just recently, tribal representatives attended the formal tribal consultation on August 19, 2015 that the department held. This extensive discussion allowed us to understand in detail the specifics of the proposed waiver, including the exemptions and alternative benefits plan.

We liked what we heard and from all that we learned, we stand in full support. We are excited about the possibilities that many of our tribal membership currently without health insurance will potentially be eligible for health care coverage with the expansion of Medicaid in Montana.

With that said, on behalf of the Fort Belknap Indian Community Council, I would request your expedient review and approval of the Demonstration Waiver to allow for expansion to occur in Montana.

Sincerely,

Mark Azure
President

c: Velva Doore, Fort Belknap Tribal Health Director