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September 2, 2025

Robert F. Kennedy Jr.
Secretary of Health and Human Services
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave SW, Sixth Floor
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Kennedy,

On behalf of the State of Montana, I write today to submit our State's new Section 1115 Medicaid demonstration waiver application, "Montana Health and Economic Livelihood Partnership (HELP) Demonstration Program." The HELP Demonstration waiver will require working-age, able-bodied adults enrolled in Medicaid to actively participate in their health care by paying premiums and contributing to their communities—either by working, pursuing job training or education, or engaging in community service activities that enhance their employability.

Montana's Medicaid program has consistently served as a vital resource for our most vulnerable, including children, seniors, and individuals with disabilities— those who the program was originally designed to protect. The safety net of Medicaid should be there for those who truly need it, but if everyone is allowed to climb upon the net, it will collapse. By boosting self-sufficiency for healthy, working-age adults through community engagement and enhanced cost sharing features, we can help preserve the long-term sustainability of the Medicaid program and ensure that this critical health coverage remains available for the most vulnerable among us.
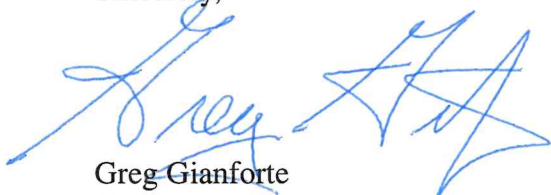
Further, by requiring healthy adults to engage in work-related activities, the HELP Demonstration waiver aims to reduce government dependency and encourage self-sufficiency and upward economic mobility for low-income adults, which has long been a priority for Montanans. In 2019, Montana law was amended to require the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) to implement community engagement and premiums for the Medicaid expansion population. After the Biden administration's refusal to allow Montana to implement these requirements, my administration committed to swiftly achieving this goal as quickly as possible in partnership with the Trump administration. As reflected by our early and proactive waiver application submission, I believe that work requirements and cost sharing for able-bodied Medicaid recipients are long overdue.

Montana, like many other states, is appreciative of the efforts of the Trump administration and

Congress to make Medicaid community engagement requirements and certain forms of cost sharing a permanent feature of the Medicaid program through passage of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA). Our state is eager to implement the community engagement and cost sharing policies codified in Montana law, and to further align these program features with new federal requirements reflected in the OBBBA. Ultimately, our HELP Demonstration waiver seeks flexibility to go beyond the minimum requirements of the OBBBA, and to align with Montana law, as applicable, for both community engagement and cost sharing policies. As the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) regulations related to the OBBBA develop and evolve, we look forward to exploring additional opportunities for alignment, including the potential use of the State Plan Amendment pathway for community engagement once it becomes available.

My administration looks forward to continuing our strong collaboration with CMS as it works on operationalizing the requirements of the OBBBA. We are committed to promptly implementing the community engagement and cost sharing policies detailed in our HELP Demonstration waiver application, as we firmly believe this program will foster self-sufficiency and help Medicaid beneficiaries move out of poverty, join the workforce, and ultimately achieve independent, healthier futures.

Sincerely,

Greg Gianforte
Governor

Cc: Karen Llanos, Acting Director, State Demonstrations Group
       Charles Brereton, Director, Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services