



Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council

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Resolution # 12-December-2018-01

A RESOLUTION TO PROTECT MONTANA MEDICAID EXPANSION AND OPPOSE WORK REQUIREMENTS ON AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE POPULATIONS IN MONTANA

WHEREAS, the Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council (TLC) has been created for the express purpose of providing its member Tribes with a unified voice and collective organization to address issues of concern to the Tribes and Indian people; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Tribal Leaders Council consists of duly elected Tribal Chairs, Presidents and Council Members who are fully authorized to represent their respective Tribes; and

WHEREAS, as a manifestation of their solemn duty, the Tribal governments actively engage in policy formation on any matters that affect the Tribes and reservations; and

WHEREAS, Tribal Leaders Council is dedicated to assisting and promoting the health needs and concerns of Indian people; and

WHEREAS, the health status of American Indians is far below the general population, the unmet health needs are significant, and an unacceptable health disparity exists in Montana where American Indians die 20 years earlier than the white population; and

WHEREAS, those covered under Montana's Medicaid Expansion includes 95,000 individuals of which over 15,000 are American Indians; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid Expansion has infused crucial funds into local communities, hospitals, tribal and urban Indian health organizations and American Indians have benefitted from improved access to quality medical care, including prevention programs; and

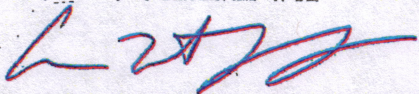
WHEREAS, job opportunities are severely limited and chronic unemployment exists in most Montana reservation communities; and

WHEREAS, mandatory Medicaid work requirements erect barriers for American Indians and a Medicaid community service hour quota reporting requirement not only creates the same costly administrative barriers to health care as work hour quota reporting requirements, it would also force low-income people to work for a non-monetary benefit; and

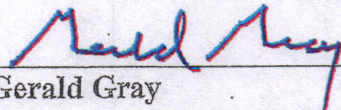
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council urges the Montana legislature to reauthorize Montana's bipartisan Medicaid expansion agreement negotiated in 2015 without implementing sweeping cuts to Medicaid under the guise of work requirements.

CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned, as the Chair and Secretary of the Tribal Leaders Council, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly presented and approved by majority vote of members of the Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council.



Alvin Not Afraid, Jr.
Chairman – Tribal Leaders Council



Gerald Gray
Secretary – Tribal Leaders Council