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## Thompson, Jo

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**From:** Pat Oriet <orietpk@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 06, 2015 9:08 PM  
**To:** Thompson, Jo  
**Subject:** Medicaid exp

I support Medicaid expansion—WHY? After 60+ years in the health care world and 40 years involved in Women's Health—I saw the need for support many times. I couldn't begin to list the individual situations that would be sited as reasons for the support—they are too many. Just know Montana women are often underserved and seldom recognized! I may have retired from the active Health Care World, but I am still out there and aware of the many areas lacking in support for Women, Children and Families.

Pat Oriet R.N.-C WHNP-E

59  
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**Thompson, Jo**

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**From:** dave.rach13@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 06, 2015 8:28 PM  
**To:** KWallis@manatt.com; Thompson, Jo  
**Subject:** Medicaid Expansion (HELP ACT) online public comment form

Name: Rachel Rockafellow, RN Bozeman, MT

Email: [dave.rach13@gmail.com](mailto:dave.rach13@gmail.com)

Comments: Montana's Medicaid expansion waiver will open up access to health coverage for tens of thousands of Montanans who have been waiting for years and who desperately need this access to care. Montana's Medicaid waiver reflects a hard won bipartisan compromise. All interested parties made concessions in order to get a policy that could pass and be implemented. This policy will work in practice and improve the lives and health of Montanans who are currently locked out of coverage. Montanans need CMS to move swiftly in approving this waiver so the state can begin enrolling people into the program. Thousands of Montanans have been waiting too long for access to life saving medical treatment and are counting on a swift waiver process. While the policy contained in Montana's waiver is not perfect, it is a represents a workable solution created by a diverse group of political leaders and policy advocates.

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## Thompson, Jo

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**From:** big.spirit@gmx.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 06, 2015 7:32 PM  
**To:** KWallis@manatt.com; Thompson, Jo  
**Subject:** Medicaid Expansion (HELP ACT) online public comment form

Name: Greg King

Email: [big.spirit@gmx.com](mailto:big.spirit@gmx.com)

Comments: Montana's form of engaging with the HELP Act was the result of a difficult bipartisan effort that would finally help 70,000 Montanans have healthier lives and also have the resources to be able to work in many cases. It would also give much help to struggling rural hospitals and clinics. It was almost a miracle for the two parties in our legislature to be able to come up with what it did. Please don't drown the effort.

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**Thompson, Jo**

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**From:** ctloveanr@aol.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 06, 2015 5:34 PM  
**To:** KWallis@manatt.com; Thompson, Jo  
**Subject:** Medicaid Expansion (HELP ACT) online public comment form

Name: Chris Love  
Email: [ctloveanr@aol.com](mailto:ctloveanr@aol.com)

Comments: Dear Ms. Thompson, I am writing in support of the 1115 waiver regarding SB 405, the HELP Act. The HELP Act is an important and urgently-needed policy that will allow Montana to cover 70,000 low-income Montanans through expansion of our Medicaid program. The HELP Act addresses the need for affordable, quality health coverage for our struggling neighbors and community members. It will open up access to primary and preventative care for Montanans who have been locked out of our healthcare system. This plan will allow many Montanans to finally secure life saving and life changing care, allowing some to get back on their feet, some to get back to work, and others to have a better quality of life. This plan also offers a lifeline to community medical centers and rural hospitals that have been struggling to operate and also provide care for patients who cannot pay. These hospitals and clinics are so important to communities across our large, rural state. I do not personally need to access the HELP Act, but I believe it is necessary to assure the best possible health care outcomes to all Montana citizens, regardless of income I recognize that the HELP Act includes policy compromises and represents the best efforts of legislators to meet the needs of our communities. I strongly support the HELP Act and urge CMS to approve Montana's waiver as quickly as possible so that we can start enrolling people in the program. Sincerely, Chris Love

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**Thompson, Jo**

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**From:** Phyllis Bock <phyllis.bock@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 06, 2015 3:32 PM  
**To:** Thompson, Jo  
**Subject:** Medicaid expansion

*Dear Ms. Thompson:*

*I am writing in support of the 1115 waiver regarding SB 405, the HELP Act. The HELP Act is an important and urgently-needed policy that will allow Montana to cover 70,000 low-income Montanans through expansion of our Medicaid program.*

*The HELP Act addresses the need for affordable, quality health coverage for our struggling neighbors and community members. It will open up access to primary and preventative care for Montanans who have been locked out of our healthcare system.*

*This plan will allow many Montanans to finally secure life saving and life changing care, allowing some to get back on their feet, some to get back to work, and others to have a better quality of life. This plan also offers a lifeline to community medical centers and rural hospitals that have been struggling to operate and also provide care for patients who cannot pay. These hospitals and clinics are so important to communities across our large, rural state.*

*I care about Medicaid expansion because I care about social justice for all of which this is but a small part.*

*I recognize that the HELP Act includes policy compromises and represents the best efforts of legislators to meet the needs of our communities. I strongly support the HELP Act and urge CMS to approve Montana's waiver as quickly as possible so that we can start enrolling people in the program.*

*Sincerely,*

*Phyllis A. Bock*

**Thompson, Jo**

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**From:** wlhandsaker@msn.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 06, 2015 3:09 PM  
**To:** KWallis@manatt.com; Thompson, Jo  
**Subject:** Medicaid Expansion (HELP ACT) online public comment form

Name: william handsaker  
Email: [wlhandsaker@msn.com](mailto:wlhandsaker@msn.com)  
Comments:  
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*No comment attached*

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## Thompson, Jo

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**From:** laynag@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 06, 2015 3:06 PM  
**To:** KWallis@manatt.com; Thompson, Jo  
**Subject:** Medicaid Expansion (HELP ACT) online public comment form

Name: Layna George  
Email: [laynag@gmail.com](mailto:laynag@gmail.com)

Comments: Dear Ms. Thompson, I am writing in support of the 1115 waiver regarding SB 405, the HELP Act. The HELP Act is an important and urgently-needed policy that will allow Montana to cover 70,000 low-income Montanans through expansion of our Medicaid program. The HELP Act addresses the need for affordable, quality health coverage for our struggling neighbors and community members. It will open up access to primary and preventative care for Montanans who have been locked out of our healthcare system. This plan will allow many Montanans to finally secure life saving and life changing care, allowing some to get back on their feet, some to get back to work, and others to have a better quality of life. This plan also offers a lifeline to community medical centers and rural hospitals that have been struggling to operate and also provide care for patients who cannot pay. These hospitals and clinics are so important to communities across our large, rural state. I recognize that the HELP Act includes policy compromises and represents the best efforts of legislators to meet the needs of our communities. I strongly support the HELP Act and urge CMS to approve Montana's waiver as quickly as possible so that we can start enrolling people in the program. Sincerely, Layna George

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**Thompson, Jo**

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**From:** Patrick Mehrens <pmehrens@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 06, 2015 1:58 PM  
**To:** Thompson, Jo  
**Subject:** Comment on the June 2015 Health and Economic Livelihood Partnership Program (HELP) Waiver Request

Attn: Ms. Jo Thompson,

I am writing in support of Montana's Health and Economic Livelihood Partnership (HELP) Act Program Waiver Request. The HELP Act is an extremely important and urgently-needed policy that will allow the State of Montana to cover the health of 70,000 low-income Montanans through expansion of our Medicaid program.

The HELP Act addresses the need for affordable, quality health coverage for our struggling neighbors and community members. It will open up access to primary and preventative care for Montanans who have been locked out of our healthcare system.

The HELP Act will also allow many Montanans to finally secure life-saving and life-changing medical care, allowing some to get back on their feet, some to get back to work, and others to have a better quality of life. This plan also offers a lifeline to community medical centers and rural hospitals that have been struggling to operate and also provide care for patients who cannot pay. These hospitals and clinics are vitally important to communities across our large, rural state.

The 1115 waiver reflects the negotiated bipartisan bill that the Montana legislature passed and the Governor signed. I recognize that the HELP Act includes policy compromises, but I think it represents the best efforts of Montana's legislators to meet the needs of our communities in light of the difficult political partisan realities we face today. While it may not be perfect, it provides much needed health care coverage to tens of thousands of Montanans who have been waiting for years and who desperately need this access to basic medical care.

The HELP program will improve the lives and health of those who are currently locked out of medical care and coverage. Therefore, I strongly support the HELP Act and urge CMS to approve Montana's 1115 waiver as quickly as possible so that Montana can start enrolling people in the program.

Sincerely,

Patrick W. Mehrens  
3341 Windmill Cir.  
Billings, MT 59102  
[pmehrens@msn.com](mailto:pmehrens@msn.com)

✓ K1J  
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## Thompson, Jo

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**From:** madellad@yahoo.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 06, 2015 12:59 PM  
**To:** KWallis@manatt.com; Thompson, Jo  
**Subject:** Medicaid Expansion (HELP ACT) online public comment form

Name: Madella M Dale

Email: [madellad@yahoo.com](mailto:madellad@yahoo.com)

Comments: I am writing in support of the 1115 waiver regarding SB405, the HELP Act. To relate my own personal story, my life train-wrecked in 2001. I had to quit my job overseas because i'd lost my health. At the same time my dad had developed dementia and my mother wasnt far behind. I came back to the family home to start a grueling decade of caring for parents. I was fortunate (I guess) to have had substantial savings however by the time the decade was over my savings were gone and was (still am) in debt. I sacrificed my whole life, including my finances to get thru those years and get my health back (all of which I paid for myself). I had to drop health insurance because our western medicine was not very helpful and there was no insurance to help pay for the Naturopathic medicine that WAS very helpful. To pay \$300/mo for health insurance plus pay outright for the care I sought was unfeasible with no money coming in. My parents didn't have enough income to pay me anything. Ive gone years with no insurance coverage while all the while keeping my parents out of nursing homes and off the govt. dole (except for the last 2 years of my mother's life when I could no longer care for her). Caregivers everywhere are in dire straights like I was and now it will take me years to recover financially. But I am lucky because I now know how to look after my health myself, something most people don't know, unfortunately. But someday when I can afford health insurance again, I will have it. I am now mostly a struggling novice entrepreneur, working on securing sufficient cash flow to avoid the situation my own parents found themselves in. Thank you for your time and consideration. Madella Dale

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**Thompson, Jo**

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**From:** lindsay\_richards@msn.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 06, 2015 12:17 PM  
**To:** KWallis@manatt.com; Thompson, Jo  
**Subject:** Medicaid Expansion (HELP ACT) online public comment form

Name: Lindsay Richards

Email: [lindsay\\_richards@msn.com](mailto:lindsay_richards@msn.com)

Comments: I strongly urge CMS to approve the 1115 waiver (SB 405, the HELP act) so that we in Montana can move forward with providing health insurance to 70,000 citizens in need. It was a rare moment of bipartisan cooperation when our legislature agreed to move forward with this. Please allow the variation in usual Medicaid policy to allow our state to facilitate more citizens' being able to access needed medical care.

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**Thompson, Jo**

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**From:** nwilson1538@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 06, 2015 11:22 AM  
**To:** KWallis@manatt.com; Thompson, Jo  
**Subject:** Medicaid Expansion (HELP ACT) online public comment form

Name: Nancy wilson

Email: [nwilson1538@gmail.com](mailto:nwilson1538@gmail.com)

Comments: 70,000 Montanans are waiting. Please help them receive healthcare by hurrying to approve the healthy Montana bill.

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**Thompson, Jo**

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**From:** karenbashkirew@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 06, 2015 10:23 AM  
**To:** KWallis@manatt.com; Thompson, Jo  
**Subject:** Medicaid Expansion (HELP ACT) online public comment form

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Name: Karen and Nikolai Bashkirew  
Email: [karenbashkirew@gmail.com](mailto:karenbashkirew@gmail.com)

Comments: Please expand Medicaid so that more Montanans can have health care. Simply, it's the right thing to do...ALL people must have access to health care! Expansion of Medicaid also creates jobs and saves money by reducing emergency room visits by folks without health care. But most important to us is our belief that health care for all is the moral and ethical thing to do.

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**Thompson, Jo**

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**From:** Robin Saha <rsaha32@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 06, 2015 10:51 AM  
**To:** Thompson, Jo  
**Subject:** Medicaid expansion

Dear Ms. Thompson,

I am writing to voice my support for the speedy implementation of the Montana HELP Act (Health & Economic Livelihood Partnership Act) by gaining federal approval for Montana's expansion plan. Please submit the necessary waiver request to the federal Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) to ensure Medicaid eligibility of tens of thousands of Montanas who are not currently covered. Thank you.

Robin Saha  
14 September Dr.  
Missoula, MT 59802

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**Thompson, Jo**

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**From:** paula kosted <pkosted@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 06, 2015 10:18 AM  
**To:** Thompson, Jo

Dear Ms. Thompson,

I am writing in support of the 1115 waiver regarding SB 405, the HELP Act. The HELP Act is an important and urgently-needed policy that will allow Montana to cover 70,000 low-income Montanans through expansion of our Medicaid program.

The HELP Act addresses the need for affordable, quality health coverage for our struggling neighbors and community members. It will open up access to primary and preventative care for Montanans who have been locked out of our healthcare system. This plan will allow many Montanans to finally secure life saving and life changing care, allowing some to get back on their feet, some to get back to work, and others to have a better quality of life. This plan also offers a lifeline to community medical centers and rural hospitals that have been struggling to operate and also provide care for patients who cannot pay. These hospitals and clinics are so important to communities across our large, rural state.

I recognize that the HELP Act includes policy compromises and represents the best efforts of legislators to meet the needs of our communities. I strongly support the HELP Act and urge CMS to approve Montana's waiver as quickly as possible so that we can start enrolling people in the program.

Sincerely,  
Paula Kosted

Registered Montana Voter at:

480 White Basin Road  
Kalispell, Montana 59901

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**Thompson, Jo**

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**From:** Patricia Rosenleaf <prosenleaf@bresnan.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 05, 2015 11:48 AM  
**To:** Thompson, Jo  
**Subject:** Comment re. 1115 Waiver

August 5, 2015

Dear Ms. Thompson:

I am writing today in support of 115 waiver regarding SB405, the HELP Act. Although I am not in need of this service myself, I believe that the 70,000 low-income people that it does affect deserve to have better more affordable health care than going to an ER in times of illness or injury. I think, also, that this act will help the rural hospitals and community health centers become more efficient and self-supporting.

I urge CMS to approve Montana's waiver as soon as possible so that enrollment may ensue.

Sincerely,  
Patricia A. Rosenleaf  
618 30th Street S.  
Great Falls, MT 59405  
(406) 452-3941

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**Thompson, Jo**

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**From:** rachel.garwin@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 06, 2015 10:44 AM  
**To:** KWallis@manatt.com; Thompson, Jo  
**Subject:** Medicaid Expansion (HELP ACT) online public comment form

Name: Rachel Garwin  
Email: [rachel.garwin@gmail.com](mailto:rachel.garwin@gmail.com)

Comments: Dear Ms. Thompson, I am writing in support of the 1115 waiver regarding SB 405, the HELP Act. The HELP Act is an important and urgently-needed policy that will allow Montana to cover 70,000 low-income Montanans through expansion of our Medicaid program. The HELP Act addresses the need for affordable, quality health coverage for our struggling neighbors and community members. It will open up access to primary and preventative care for Montanans who have been locked out of our healthcare system. This plan will allow many Montanans to finally secure life saving and life changing care, allowing some to get back on their feet, some to get back to work, and others to have a better quality of life. This plan also offers a lifeline to community medical centers and rural hospitals that have been struggling to operate and also provide care for patients who cannot pay. These hospitals and clinics are so important to communities across our large, rural state. I recognize that the HELP Act includes policy compromises and represents the best efforts of legislators to meet the needs of our communities. I strongly support the HELP Act and urge CMS to approve Montana's waiver as quickly as possible so that we can start enrolling people in the program. Sincerely, Rachel Garwin  
Missoula

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## Thompson, Jo

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**From:** Gerald Navratil <gjmena@midrivers.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 05, 2015 10:40 AM  
**To:** Thompson, Jo  
**Subject:** comment on Medicaid expansion

Both my wife and I are wholeheartedly in favor of the Medicaid Expansion enacted by the 2015 legislature and signed into law by Gov Bullock. This is a great way to expand the medical safety net for those most in need.

Gerald & Maryellen Navratil  
12026 Hwy 16  
Sidney MT 59270  
[gjmena@midrivers.com](mailto:gjmena@midrivers.com)  
406-488-8236

42K  
✓

**Thompson, Jo**

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**From:** Judy Byrne <judysbyrne@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 03, 2015 9:18 PM  
**To:** Thompson, Jo  
**Subject:** Medicaid Expansion in Montana

Dear Ms. Thompson,

I am writing in support of the 1115 waiver regarding SB 405, the HELP Act. The HELP Act is an important and urgently-needed policy that will allow 70,000 low-income Montanans opportunities to access affordable health care. Thousands of Montanans struggle to keep up with their bills due to the generally low salaries in this state and the lack of lucrative job openings.

The HELP Act will open up access to primary and preventative care for Montanans who have been locked out of our healthcare system. They earn too much to qualify for assistance, but too little to be able to afford the care they need. This plan will allow so many Montanans to finally secure quality medical care and to have a better quality of life. This plan also will assist community medical centers and rural hospitals that have been struggling to operate while they provide care for patients who cannot pay. These hospitals and clinics are vital in rural communities.

I recognize that the HELP Act includes compromises, but it represents the best efforts of legislators to meet the needs of our communities. I strongly support the HELP Act and urge CMS to approve Montana's waiver as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Judy S. Byrne

3657 8 Avenue South

Great Falls MT 59405

40K ✓

**Thompson, Jo**

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**From:** Randy Kosted <r.kosted@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 04, 2015 8:26 AM  
**To:** Thompson, Jo  
**Subject:** HELP Act Public Comment

Dear Ms. Thompson,

I am writing in support of the 1115 waiver regarding SB 405, the HELP Act. The HELP Act is an important and urgently-needed policy that will allow Montana to cover 70,000 low-income Montanans through expansion of our Medicaid program.

The HELP Act addresses the need for affordable, quality health coverage for our struggling neighbors and community members. It will open up access to primary and preventative care for Montanans who have been locked out of our healthcare system. This plan will allow many Montanans to finally secure life saving and life changing care, allowing some to get back on their feet, some to get back to work, and others to have a better quality of life. This plan also offers a lifeline to community medical centers and rural hospitals that have been struggling to operate and also provide care for patients who cannot pay. These hospitals and clinics are so important to communities across our large, rural state.

I recognize that the HELP Act includes policy compromises and represents the best efforts of legislators to meet the needs of our communities. I strongly support the HELP Act and urge CMS to approve Montana's waiver as quickly as possible so that we can start enrolling people in the program.

Sincerely,  
Randolph Kosted

Registered Montana Voter at:

480 White Basin Road  
Kalispell, Montana 59901

43 ✓ KJ



**Thompson, Jo**

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**From:** phogan@mt.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, August 03, 2015 5:21 PM  
**To:** KWallis@manatt.com; Thompson, Jo  
**Subject:** Medicaid Expansion (HELP ACT) online public comment form

Name: Patricia Hogan  
Email: [phogan@mt.gov](mailto:phogan@mt.gov)

Comments: Dear Ms. Thompson, I write in support of the 1115 waiver regarding SB 405, the HELP Act, which would expand health care coverage to Montanans who need it. This plan offers a lifeline to community medical centers and rural hospitals that have been struggling to operate and provide care to patients who have trouble paying. Please move as quickly as possible to enable this legislation, so we can begin providing the coverage that 70,000 Montanans need. Although it is an imperfect solution to the public health problems we face in Montana, it is a step in the right direction, and long overdue.

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**Thompson, Jo**

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**From:** paula kosted <pkosted@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 03, 2015 4:37 PM  
**To:** Thompson, Jo  
**Subject:** HELP Act Public Comment

Dear Ms. Thompson,

I am writing in support of the 1115 waiver regarding SB 405, the HELP Act. The HELP Act is an important and urgently-needed policy that will allow Montana to cover 70,000 low-income Montanans through expansion of our Medicaid program.

The HELP Act addresses the need for affordable, quality health coverage for our struggling neighbors and community members. It will open up access to primary and preventative care for Montanans who have been locked out of our healthcare system. This plan will allow many Montanans to finally secure life saving and life changing care, allowing some to get back on their feet, some to get back to work, and others to have a better quality of life. This plan also offers a lifeline to community medical centers and rural hospitals that have been struggling to operate and also provide care for patients who cannot pay. These hospitals and clinics are so important to communities across our large, rural state.

I recognize that the HELP Act includes policy compromises and represents the best efforts of legislators to meet the needs of our communities. I strongly support the HELP Act and urge CMS to approve Montana's waiver as quickly as possible so that we can start enrolling people in the program.

Sincerely,  
Paula Kosted

Registered Montana Voter at:

480 White Basin Road  
Kalispell, Montana 59901

41 K ✓

**Thompson, Jo**

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**From:** Nathan Kosted <nathan.kosted@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 03, 2015 4:30 PM  
**To:** Thompson, Jo  
**Subject:** HELP Act Public Comment

Dear Ms. Thompson,

I am writing in support of the 1115 waiver regarding SB 405, the HELP Act. The HELP Act is an important and urgently-needed policy that will allow Montana to cover 70,000 low-income Montanans through expansion of our Medicaid program.

The HELP Act addresses the need for affordable, quality health coverage for our struggling neighbors and community members. It will open up access to primary and preventative care for Montanans who have been locked out of our healthcare system. This plan will allow many Montanans to finally secure life saving and life changing care, allowing some to get back on their feet, some to get back to work, and others to have a better quality of life. This plan also offers a lifeline to community medical centers and rural hospitals that have been struggling to operate and also provide care for patients who cannot pay. These hospitals and clinics are so important to communities across our large, rural state.

I recognize that the HELP Act includes policy compromises and represents the best efforts of legislators to meet the needs of our communities. I strongly support the HELP Act and urge CMS to approve Montana's waiver as quickly as possible so that we can start enrolling people in the program.

Sincerely,

Nathan Kosted

Registered Montana Voter at:

480 White Basin Road

Kalispell, Montana 59901

39K ✓

**Thompson, Jo**

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**From:** SUSAN MORGAN <confluence@rocketmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 03, 2015 2:06 PM  
**To:** Thompson, Jo  
**Subject:** support medicaid expansion

To whom it may concern,

As a citizen and health care provider, who has no conflict of interest and in no way will benefit from the medicaid expansion personally or financially, I urge you to support the medicaid expansion.

In fact, I urge our state and fed government to take the health care reform further and move to a single payer system which would be oh soo simpler and more efficient. I spend HOURS each month working on health care billing and reimbursement issues for my family due to the complexity of the system. There are better ways- maybe not a perfect way which is perfect for every single person, but certainly this system is frustrating and FAR from satisfying.

Consider lowering the medicare age by 10 or 15 years ( I know this is a federal program; you can create a state "age gap" medicare plan modeled after the federal one as a pilot project, probable get a federal grant to do so, and then cover people age 50-65 using the medicare model, which is very efficient in terms of administrative costs.) Then more people will be able to retire or go part-time, opening up the job market for younger workers : )

Susan

## Thompson, Jo

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**From:** SUSAN MORGAN <confluence@rocketmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 03, 2015 2:07 PM  
**To:** Thompson, Jo  
**Subject:** support medicaid expansion

To whom it may concern,

As a citizen and health care provider, who has no conflict of interest and in no way will benefit from the medicaid expansion personally or financially, I urge you to support the medicaid expansion.

In fact, I urge our state and fed government to take the health care reform further and move to a single payer system which would be oh soo simpler and more efficient. I spend HOURS each month working on health care billing and reimbursement issues for my family due to the complexity of the system. There are better ways- maybe not a perfect way which is perfect for every single person, but certainly this system is frustrating and FAR from satisfying.

Consider lowering the medicare age by 10 or 15 years ( I know this is a federal program; you can create a state "age gap" medicare plan modeled after the federal one as a pilot project, probable get a federal grant to do so, and then cover people age 50-65 using the medicare model, which is very efficient in terms of administrative costs.) Then more people will be able to retire or go part-time, opening up the job market for younger workers : )

Susan Morgan  
3200 Ravenwood Lane  
59803

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**Thompson, Jo**

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**From:** Ellen <ellen@careertransitions.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 04, 2015 10:21 AM  
**To:** Thompson, Jo  
**Subject:** HELP Act

I support the HELP act.

**Ellen Ornitz**

**ellen.ornitz@gmail.com**

2570 Heeb Road  
Manhattan, MT 59741  
406-579-4756



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.

[www.avast.com](http://www.avast.com)

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Email

**Thompson, Jo**

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**From:** Jerry Voss <jvossphoto@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 28, 2015 10:13 AM  
**To:** Thompson, Jo  
**Subject:** We need the Waiver: Help 70K MT get healthcare

#3

Dear Ms. Thompson,

I am writing to urge you to do all that you can to help the MT Medicaid expansion waiver get approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Montana's Medicaid expansion waiver will open up access to health coverage for tens of thousands of Montanans who have been waiting for years and who desperately need this access to care.

Thousands of Montanans have shown support for the compromises and negotiations that made this policy happen. Our families, neighbors, and community members can't wait any longer for access to life saving care. I support Montana's waiver and urge the state and CMS to move as quickly as possible.

Thanks -

Jerry Voss  
1837 S 13th St W  
Missoula, MT 59801

24 ✓

**Thompson, Jo**

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**From:** John Ilgenfritz <jgilgenfritz@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 03, 2015 11:45 AM  
**To:** Thompson, Jo  
**Subject:** medicaid montana

I totally support the bipartisan effort to expand medicaid to potentially 70,000 or so Montanans. I believe it was called the HELP Act.

I believe affordable health care is a right, not a privilege and request that the folks at the federal level, who must grant a waiver for the home grown Montana compromise, do so at the earliest possible time.

I hope that you, our federal partner, will support Montana in assisting those who fall through the crack of our health care system.

We ask not for a hand out, but a hand up for thousands of Montana men, women and children.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

john ilgenfritz  
1001 Harrison Ave.  
Helena, MT. 59601

✓ 22

**Thompson, Jo**

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**From:** Rita Wells <mango497@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 22, 2015 7:11 AM  
**To:** Thompson, Jo  
**Subject:** support for Medicaid expansion

I support Medicaid expansion because it's the right thing to do, period. Healthcare is a right, not a privilege, and my faith calls me to do what I can to make sure those who are less fortunate among us are taken care of.

Rita Wells  
Billings, Montana  
1st Vice President, Billings Education Association

✓ 21

**Thompson, Jo**

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**From:** Tom Glover <tomglover@mcn.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 20, 2015 6:15 PM  
**To:** Thompson, Jo  
**Subject:** I support Medicaid Expansion

Medicaid Expansion is a good deal for Montanans just like the Farm Bill and specifically the Small Farm Income Protection Program both programs include the feature of subsidized insurance premiums.

Pleas when comments demand that every Montanan must pay their fair share.  
Montanans overpay their fair share when called to war.

These programs will protect Montana's economy just like Social Security and Medicare. We must protect the programs for our future.

Medicaid Expansion will expand Montana's workforce by providing for more healthy families and healthy workers to work in our economy. Like corporations, our government that makes sure farming continues to contribute to the bottom line.

As insurance is available and subsidized to cover for farm crop interruptions, insurance is provided even if there is drought and damaged crops.

Bringing down the number of uninsured will lower emergency room care. Medicaid Expansion in Montana will employ our people in health care occupations.  
Montana's job centers will improve the situation of most Montanans who still are unemployed or have less job security by making sure the whole family is insured for sickness and injury and treated for their condition successfully.

More than 7,100 deaths likely from states' rejection of Medicaid expansion:  
Health Affairs Blog Harvard and CUNY researchers say death toll from 25-state 'opt-out' may be as high as 17,100 annually; hundreds of thousands more will be harmed by depression, untreated diabetes, and skipping mammograms and pap smears.

Montanans have waited for a better deal to come along. It is here now to made possible.

<http://www.pnhp.org/news/2014/january/more-than-7100-deaths-likely-from-states-rejection-of-medicaid-expansion-%C2%A0health-a>

Tom Glover  
406-788-6931  
1318 16th St So  
Great Falls,=20  
Cascade County  
Montana 59405-4713

Tom Glover  
1318 16th St S  
Great Falls, MT 59405  
[tomglover@mcn.net](mailto:tomglover@mcn.net)

Twitter: @BigSkyDem

Facebook: Friends of Tom Glover Great Falls, MT

LinkedIn: Tom Glover

<http://computertechnow.com>

<http://tomglover.org>

406-761-1309

406-788-6931

A small group of thoughtful people could change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.  
Margaret Mead

Read more: [http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/m/margaret\\_mead.html#ixzz1di2Zgbf](http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/m/margaret_mead.html#ixzz1di2Zgbf)

**Thompson, Jo**

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**From:** cchris@blackfoot.net  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 19, 2015 7:20 PM  
**To:** Thompson, Jo  
**Subject:** comment on Medicaid waiver program  
**Attachments:** medicaid.docx

Sent from Windows Mail

July 19, 2015

Hi, I saw the ad for comment on the Medicaid Waiver program in my local newspaper here in Seeley Lake. I have had firsthand experience with this program as I was one of the first medical case managers hired to implement, administer and monitor this program in January of 1989 in Phoenix Arizona. Arizona was one of the first states to start this program as I assume was due to the high elderly population in Maricopa county. I spent close to 12 years working with this program until I moved to Montana in 2000.

This is a wonderful program, of course it has lots of zits and flaws due to the bureaucracy involved with dealing with federal, state and county government. The bottom line is that this funding allowed people to remain in their homes as long as possible with the help of home and community based services.

I believe at the time I left we were allowed to authorize close to 80% of services in the home of what it would cost to put the same individual in a nursing home or skilled nursing facility depending on the level of care. We also provided services for ventilator dependent clients as well as pediatric children. Allowing these people to stay at home and maintain their quality of life was a huge reward.

May I also say that the revenue that it brought into the county and communities was huge in that it provided jobs for individuals.

If I can provide further information please feel free to contact me at 406-677-2727 or 406-240-4740.

Thank you for your time,

Christine Christofferson



*The Big Sky Country*

## MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**REPRESENTATIVE ART WITTICH**  
HOUSE DISTRICT 68

HELENA ADDRESS:  
CAPITOL BUILDING  
PO BOX 200400  
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-0400  
PHONE: (406) 444-4800

HOME ADDRESS:  
3116 SOURDOUGH RD  
BOZEMAN, MT 59715  
PHONE: (406) 599-9836

COMMITTEES:  
HUMAN SERVICES - CHAIR  
STATE ADMINISTRATION  
RULES

August 17, 2015

Richard Opper  
Director DPHHS  
111 N. Sanders, Room 301  
Helena, MT 59620

Re: *SB405*

Dear Mr. Opper:

As you know, I was appointed to the Montana HELP Act Oversight Committee in accordance with Section 11 of SB 405. Under Section 12 of the bill, this committee is to review the activities of your Department, including how the implementation of the Act is being carried out. Please consider my comments to your July 7, 2015 draft Section 1115 Research and Demonstration Waiver Application, which is scheduled to be submitted to CMS after the public comment period expires.

As you also know, SB 405 was touted as a "bipartisan compromise," whereby Democrats and Republicans made concessions to ensure passage of the bill. While many were mostly concerned about expanding Medicaid under the provisions of the Affordable Care Act, the supposed counterbalances in the bill included innovative "Montana-made" solutions to allow people to rise out of poverty (and eventually off of Medicaid).

For instance, purposes in Section 2(1)(b) and (c) included improving the readiness of recipients to enter the workforce or obtain better paying jobs, and thereby reduce their dependence on public assistance programs. Section 2(3) of the bill also called for innovative solutions from the healthcare industry to improve outcomes and reduce the cost of care. Section 2(5) of the bill found that "it is important to implement additional fraud, waste, and abuse safeguards..." Section 2(6) of SB 405 included the purpose of providing low-income Montanans with opportunities to improve their work readiness.

The SB 405 "compromise" also included Section 7, which required recipients to pay a minute portion of their monthly premium, or risk disenrollment. Section 8 required the strengthening of existing Medicaid programs and establishing additional programs to reduce costs, and improve medical outcomes, as well as reducing fraud, waste, and abuse. Section 14 set up a workforce development program to reduce the number of people depending on social programs, including

the HELP Act Program. Finally, Section 18 required the department to assess a sliding scale asset-based fee for recipients starting at \$100 per month.

I remind you of all of these various provisions of the HELP Act because they are completely absent from your waiver application. Yet, Section 5(5) of the bill requires your department to seek authorization from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to implement the bill, and in fact, Section 26 of the bill includes non-severability language that each part of the Act (i.e., Sections 1-18) is "essentially dependent upon every other part."

For instance, on page 2 of your draft application, you mention the two "central features" of the HELP Program being the use of a third-party administrator, and the imposition of recipient premiums and co-payments. However, you ignore all of the other necessary provisions which the federal government should be apprised of before approving this program, namely disenrollment for noncompliance, the asset based fee, and the requirement to participate in a workforce development program.

In addition, I note on page 6 of your draft application that you estimate 70,000 individuals will be eligible for the HELP Act demonstration. While we all remember this number was used for messaging to drive the passage of the bill, the fiscal note on the bill (and the stated fiscal impact) included significantly less (e.g., 45,000) enrollees to the program. Which is correct - your application or the fiscal note?

Your application also seems to promote policies directly opposed to the provisions of the bill (i.e. seeking "express ~~land~~ eligibility," which does nothing to combat fraud, waste, and abuse).

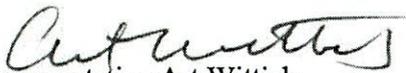
I am also curious why on page 10 and 11 of your draft application you answered "not applicable" to the question on whether the state is proposing cost-sharing. Why not fully disclose the *requirement* that cost-sharing of premiums and payments were an integral part of this bill?

Finally, on page 16 of your draft application, I am unsure of your answer, and how the federal government interprets "budget neutrality." How can the granting of this waiver, and the expansion of Medicaid to up to 70,000 people, be budget-neutral to either the federal government or the state government?

In closing, since the federal CMS has denied many other waiver requests by States that proposed innovative solutions, and since the very passage of SB 405 depended on innovative cost-sharing and work-force development requirements, I believe it is necessary to fully disclose all of these matters to CMS prior to their decision. I expect you and the Governor will fight just as hard for the "concessions" as the expansion provisions. Accordingly, please attach a copy of SB 405 to the application so they understand its full scope, and the direction by the legislature, which would then be incorporated into any waiver approval.

Please distribute a copy of this letter to the other HELP Committee members, and the Governor.

Respectfully,

  
Representative Art Wittich

8/3/15

Email #4  
Kier

36 ✓

**Thompson, Jo**

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**From:** one800mary <one800mary@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 03, 2015 11:56 AM  
**To:** Thompson, Jo  
**Subject:** Medicaid Expansion

Dear Ms. Thompson,

I am writing in support of the 1115 waiver regarding SB 405, the HELP Act. The HELP Act is an important and urgently-needed policy that will allow Montana to cover 70,000 low-income Montanans through expansion of our Medicaid program.

The HELP Act addresses the need for affordable, quality health coverage for our struggling neighbors and community members. It will open up access to primary and preventative care for Montanans who have been locked out of our healthcare system.

This plan will allow many Montanans to finally secure life saving and life changing care, allowing some to get back on their feet, some to get back to work, and others to have a better quality of life. This plan also offers a lifeline to community medical centers and rural hospitals that have been struggling to operate and also provide care for patients who cannot pay. These hospitals and clinics are so important to communities across our large, rural state.

I recognize that the HELP Act includes policy compromises and represents the best efforts of legislators to meet the needs of our communities. I strongly support the HELP Act and urge CMS to approve Montana's waiver as quickly as possible so that we can start enrolling people in the program.

Sincerely,  
Mary Syrenne

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy Tab®4

35 ✓

**Thompson, Jo**

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**From:** Steve Mcarthur <stevemcarthur@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 03, 2015 11:53 AM  
**To:** Thompson, Jo  
**Subject:** Comment on expanding Medicaid in Montana

Dear Sir,

I am relieved that MT is finally going to provide relief to the 70K Montanians without real helathcare and feel it is ling overdue that we support those at or near the poverty line! do it now , expand the prodrum to cover the folks who really need it. thanks Steve

34 ✓

**Thompson, Jo**

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**From:** m hutchins <artdogz@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 01, 2015 2:12 PM  
**To:** Thompson, Jo  
**Subject:** HELP Act

Dear Jo Thompson,

I am writing to say I Support expanding Health Care coverage to Montanans who need it.

Montana's Medicaid expansion waiver will open up,access to health care coverage for many folks who desperately need this access to care.

Montanans need to CMS to move swiftly in approving this waiver so the state can begin enrolling people into the program.

- M Hutchins

33 ✓

**Thompson, Jo**

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**From:** Floyd & Paula Wheeler <floydnpaula@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 01, 2015 12:39 PM  
**To:** Thompson, Jo  
**Subject:** medicaid expansion comment

I live in Kalispell and just finished raising 2 grandchildren. Youngest just turned 21 and has great job with benefits.

However granddaughter, Tia, who will be turning 25 yrs old this Sept, has been in an entirely different circumstance. Divorced by a man who married his bosses daughter and fathered her baby directly after divorce; she is a single mom with a little girl who just turned 5. When child was 3 1/2, she was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes and it is still not under control. She starts school in Sept. She has Healthy MT. Kids and my granddaughter would not be able to afford the diabetes supplies. She has Hashimotos thyroiditis and constantly needs checked by a physician, who monitors her daily meds according to expensive blood tests needed.

Tia has not been able to work full time since her little girl developed diabetes. Therefore, no insurance. She works for Skywest at Glacier Airport and she is trying to move up by applying for jobs that will give her insurance at Skywest. However, those jobs don't come around very often and so far, no luck in that area.

The problem with all of the above is, I am on social security and a small retirement check from working 20 yrs. my husband of 52 years passed away last month. We have been paying Tia's medical insurance since she originally lost hers! Now with federal health care the law, we thought it would become cheaper; but instead, she could not qualify the MINIMUM income to receive federal help so has to pay the ENTIRE AMOUNT EACH MONTH FOR HER COVERAGE!! That means, I PAY IT EACH AND EVERY MONTH. There is no way I won't continue her coverage as she desperately needs it. Her x husband had the little girl every other week, so Tia tries to pick up as many hours as she can because she needs \$. Tia lives in housing that she rents cheaper as a result of her low income and also receives SNAP for her and 5 yr. old. Otherwise she couldn't make it at all. When she has her daughter she has to limit her work hours because the stipulations of her custody agreement severely limit who can and can't watch her daughter due to the medical condition.

So the bottom line, and the reason for this email is because she is one of those people who do fit into that area that qualifies for absolutely no help in the "affordable care act" and she is below the federal poverty level. I pay \$265.68 per month for her coverage and of course co pays and etc!

anything you could do to alleviate this problem would be a huge help to Tia and people like me! Sincerely,

Paula Wheeler

32 ✓

**Thompson, Jo**

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**From:** Lee and Nancy Silliman <silliman@q.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 01, 2015 11:37 AM  
**To:** Thompson, Jo  
**Subject:** HELP Act

Dear Ms. Thompson,

My husband, Lee Silliman, and I are strongly in support of expanding health care coverage in Montana. We therefore back the state's request for a waiver from the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services for our Medicaid expansion legislation.

The state plan is not ideal, in our opinion, but it is a significant step forward in our effort to insure all Montanans for health care. Also, it is a vital assist to our state's hospitals and clinics as they struggle to provide medical care to our polity. Montana is an exceedingly rural and large state, which seriously complicates delivery of services to most of our citizens in both medical and financial terms.

It is our hope that the 1115 waiver for the HELP Act will be expeditiously approved for the benefit of thousands of eligible Montanans.

Thank you for your consideration.

Nancy Silliman

31 ✓

**Thompson, Jo**

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**From:** Robert R. Miller <zyor2010@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 29, 2015 10:58 AM  
**To:** Thompson, Jo  
**Subject:** We need the Waiver: Help 70K MT get healthcare

Dear Ms. Thompson,

I am writing to urge you to do all that you can to help the MT Medicaid expansion waiver get approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Montana's Medicaid expansion waiver will open up access to health coverage for tens of thousands of Montanans who have been waiting for years and who desperately need this access to care.

Thousands of Montanans have shown support for the compromises and negotiations that made this policy happen. Our families, neighbors, and community members can't wait any longer for access to life saving care. I support Montana's waiver and urge the state and CMS to move as quickly as possible.

Thanks -

Robert R. Miller  
349 Westcester Sq. S.  
Billings, MT 59105

30 ✓

**Thompson, Jo**

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**From:** K.G.H. Nicholes <kghn@ttc-cmc.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 28, 2015 11:54 AM  
**To:** Thompson, Jo  
**Subject:** We need the Waiver: Help 70K MT get healthcare

Dear Ms. Thompson,

I am writing to urge you to help the MT Medicaid expansion waiver get approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Montana's Medicaid expansion waiver will open up access to health coverage for tens of thousands of Montanans who have been waiting for years and who desperately need this access to care.

Also, the current exchange rules mean that slipping below the poverty line means losing the federal premium help to buy insurance. For most self-employed, that means losing all health insurance.

Thousands of Montanans have shown support for the compromises and negotiations that made this policy happen. Our families, neighbors, and community members can't wait any longer for access to life saving care. I support Montana's waiver and urge the state and CMS to move as quickly as possible.

Thanks -

K.G.H. Nicholes  
10 Jawbone Rd  
Martinsdale, MT 59053

29 ✓

**Thompson, Jo**

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**From:** Turner Willman <turnerwillman@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 27, 2015 3:03 PM  
**To:** Thompson, Jo  
**Subject:** We need the Waiver: Help 70K MT get healthcare

Dear Ms. Thompson,

I am writing to urge you to do all that you can to help the MT Medicaid expansion waiver get approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Montana's Medicaid expansion waiver will open up access to health coverage for tens of thousands of Montanans who have been waiting for years and who desperately need this access to care.

Thousands of Montanans have shown support for the compromises and negotiations that made this policy happen. Our families, neighbors, and community members can't wait any longer for access to life saving care. I support Montana's waiver and urge the state and CMS to move as quickly as possible.

Thanks -

Turner Willman  
Cedar St  
Helena, MT 59601

28 ✓

**Thompson, Jo**

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**From:** Dana Eisenberg <deisenbe@umich.edu>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 23, 2015 3:03 PM  
**To:** Thompson, Jo  
**Subject:** Public Comment on HELP Act

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm so happy that Montana has finally accepted the idea of Medicaid expansion. I personally have a number of friends who are excited by the prospect of being able to receive both preventative and necessary medical treatment without fearing that they won't be able to pay the bills.

In addition to several hardworking friends who fall between the current income guidelines for Medicaid and Obama-care, I am also excited that a young man I have taken care of for several years may be able to continue his Medicaid coverage as he turns 19 while in college. He will be unable to earn much money as he studies and all of that will have to go to his costs of college attendance. Since the school requires insurance, the HELP act will make it easier for him to have continued coverage in a familiar program that matches his ability to pay.

Please pass approve this act as quickly as possible so none of us have to wonder and worry further about how we, our friends, and our loved-ones will be supported in having healthy lives.

Dana Eisenberg  
528 Cleveland St.  
Missoula, MT 59801

26 ✓

**Thompson, Jo**

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**From:** Jana Staton <jstaton@montana.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 24, 2015 10:10 PM  
**To:** HHS Medicaid Expansion  
**Subject:** Medicaid Expansion

DPHHS & Oversight Committee

The Missoula re-entry coalition, Partners for Reintegration, has been working for a year to increase access to addictions and mental illness treatment for citizens returning from incarceration. We know and will offer testimony that without expansion, those being released cannot continue the treatment needed (and often mandated for parole) without expansion. As single adults, working low wage jobs, the kind of quality community-based treatment that will help they stay sober and clean is unaffordable. Going back into prison because of 'technical parole violations' overwhelmingly happens because of drug or alcohol use.

Medicaid expansion is the SINGLE best investment the state can make in reducing recidivism, saving the costs of new incarceration, and saving lives and family relationships.

Jana Staton, Co-Chair  
Leadership Team Co-Chair  
Missoula Partners for Reintegration  
[jstaton@montana.com](mailto:jstaton@montana.com)  
406-721-5558

27 ✓

**Thompson, Jo**

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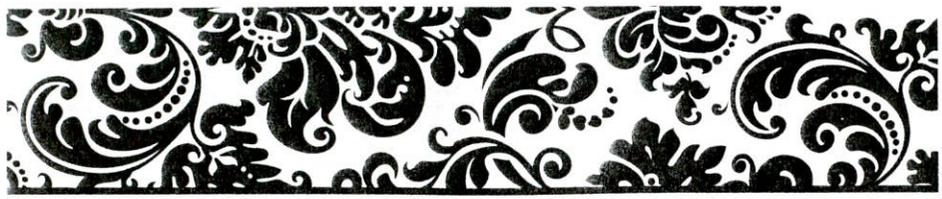
**From:** Jan Henderson <jmh5300@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 22, 2015 1:26 PM  
**To:** HHS Medicaid Expansion  
**Subject:** Medicaid Expansion

I would agree with the Medicaid Expansion lined out by Partners for Reintegration.

The extreme needs of those once incarcerated must be met.

Thank you for working so hard to make this happen.

*Jan Henderson  
Executive Director  
Adult & Teen Challenge  
Missoula Campus*



Jo Thompson  
 PO Box 202951  
 Helena MT 59620-2951

I am writing to express  
 my support of expanding  
 Medicaid. We have a  
 responsibility to care for  
 the poor/disadvantaged,  
 and I hope Montana  
 expands Medicaid

Clara Hodges  
 1201 Highland  
 #A-232  
 Bozeman MT 59715



2015

23 7/23/15

Logged  
 To this point.

1

**Corbett, Rebecca**

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**From:** Elizabeth Jonkel <ejonkel@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 07, 2015 9:16 PM  
**To:** HHS Medicaid Expansion  
**Subject:** HELP Act Public Comment Request

Hello,

Please accept this email as my submission of public comment on the law (HELP Act) to expand health care coverage through Medicaid to adults between the ages of 19-64 who earn incomes less than about \$16,000/year for an individual or \$28,000/year for a family of three.

I strongly agree with and support this Act. I am personally committed to the belief that health care is a right, not a privilege. Any effort Montana and the United States can make towards ensuring safe, affordable and reliable health services to all members of society is a step forward.

I hope every effort is made to guarantee Montana can enroll those of lower income into a health insurance program, and if the receipt of waivers from certain Medicare rules will bring the State closer towards realizing this goal, than I support the State of Montana's endeavors.

If you require or desire further input, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Jonkel  
620 Defoe Street  
Missoula, MT 59802