



MBPC's Statement on Governor Schweitzer's Proposed 2015 Budget November 15, 2012

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The Montana Budget and Policy Center, a nonpartisan public policy research group, released the following statement from Executive Director Tara Veazey in response to Governor Schweitzer's proposed 2015 Biennium budget, released today.

"Today was a very good day for Montana's families, communities, and economy. Governor Schweitzer's proposed budget makes important investments in our essential programs and helps to make Montana more economically competitive by improving the health of our workforce and prioritizing public education."

"The governor's budget includes the expansion of Montana's Medicaid program- a decision that will provide health care for tens of thousands of hardworking Montanans, from ranchers to restaurant workers, and create well-paying jobs across the state. Other than relatively small administrative costs associated with expanded eligibility, one hundred percent of the costs of this expansion are covered by the federal government for the first three years, allowing Montana's leaders to find state-based solutions to our health care challenges and grow the program in a way that capitalizes on our state's unique opportunities and characteristics."*

"In addition, the governor has highlighted the importance of a quality, affordable education system. His proposed tuition freeze and increased investments in community colleges will help to make higher education more affordable for Montana's students. A well-educated workforce attracts businesses and creates jobs, allowing Montana's young people to stay and succeed in our great state."

"Governor Schweitzer has set a clear standard for Montana's policymakers. As we move forward to the 2013 legislative session, our elected officials should strive to make budget decisions that provide opportunity to all Montana families, invest in our vital public systems, and put our state on the path to long-term prosperity."

*For more information about Medicaid expansion, see MBPC's recent report, "[Medicaid Expansion is a Good Deal for Montana](#)," and a follow-up report exploring the important implications of expansion [for Indian Country](#).

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