Medicaid Expansion:
It's the Right Choice for House District 15

Medicaid plays a vital role in supporting the healthcare economy in Flathead, Lake, Glacier, and Pondera Counties.

	Medicaid Recipients in County (FY 2014)	Medicaid Dollars Spent (FY 2014)
Lake County	5,110	$29,739,000
Glacier County	3,210	$19,526,000
Pondera County	950	$5,980,000
Flathead County	11,750	$58,987,000

Expanding Medicaid is a great deal for Montana. Over 60,000 Montanans would get the health insurance they need at little cost to the state. In fact, the federal government covers 100% of the costs for the first three years, and no less than 90% thereafter. This is also Montana's opportunity to get back the dollars we have already been contributing to Medicaid expansion. From lower federal payments to hospitals and providers, to taxes and fees on certain health plans, Montanans have been and will continue to pay for Medicaid expansion. If we don't take those dollars, they will simply be redirected to other states like Arizona, California, North Dakota, and New York to generate jobs and provide health care for their residents.

	Uninsured Adults Eligible for Medicaid Expansion	Anticipated Additional Medicaid Spending	Anticipated Increase in Jobs per Year	Anticipated Increase in Labor Income per Year
Lake County	2,534	$14,747,000	480	$20,030,000
Glacier County	1,416	$8,613,000	270	$11,193,000
Pondera County	496	$3,122,000	90	$3,921,000
Flathead County	6,276	$31,507,000	1,190	$49,608,000

Expansion's Economic Impacts
As newly insured Montanans seek health care, there will be an increase in the demand for doctors, nurses, and other medical support staff. Health care providers can hire new employees who will then spend their paychecks in local businesses. These additional dollars flowing on Main Street allow businesses to grow. Expanding Medicaid could add as many as 12,700 jobs annually and generate $4 billion in labor income in Montana in the first eight years. **In Flathead, Lake, Glacier, and Pondera Counties, expansion could add over 2,030 jobs and generate $84,752,000 in labor income annually.** What starts as a small investment in Medicaid expansion actually triggers a chain reaction of economic development across our state.

Without Expansion: A County-Level Outlook
If Montana fails to expand Medicaid, **10,722 people in Flathead, Lake, Glacier, and Pondera Counties** – mainly parents and other adults working for low wages – will be left without insurance. They will make too much to qualify for Medicaid, but too little to be eligible for tax credits to purchase private insurance. They will be left with no viable options - stuck in the middle ground, left to face the inefficient health care system of the past. They will continue to receive less preventative care and delay treatment due to high costs. As a result, they will have worse health outcomes, higher financial burdens, and raise health care costs for all of us.

Sources: Montana Department of Health and Human Services, U.S. Census Bureau Small Area Health Insurance Estimates, and Bureau of Business and Economic Research.

www.MontanaBudget.org