

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 9

INTRODUCED BY J. WINDY BOY

A RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA URGING
FEDERAL ACTION TO ALLOW FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMUNITY HEALTH AIDE PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, in 2010 Congress authorized the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the
Indian Health Service to create a Community Health Aide Program designed to improve access to and delivery
of health care services to American Indians and Alaska Natives and to improve the health status of tribal
members; and

WHEREAS, in 2019 the Montana Legislature passed House Bill No. 599 to authorize the use of
community health aides for dental health, behavioral health, and community health care services that are
provided in practice settings operated by the Indian Health Service or a tribal health program; and

WHEREAS, the 2023 Legislature passed House Bill No. 582 to extend the sunset date of the 2019
legislation for 2 years, to September 30, 2025; and

WHEREAS, Montana tribes have developed capacity to implement the Community Health Aide
Program and the State of Montana has partnered with the tribes to implement the program; and

WHEREAS, individuals may practice as community health aides only if certified by a federal
certification board or by a federally recognized tribe that has adopted certification standards meeting or
exceeding the standards set by a federal certification board; and

WHEREAS, the Billings Area Indian Health Service office, in partnership with federally recognized
tribes in the region, has implemented an area certification board; and

WHEREAS, further federal action is needed before individuals can be certified as community health
aides in the state.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
MONTANA:

That the House of Representatives of the 68th Montana Legislature urges Congress to fully fund the

1 expansion of the Community Health Aide Program and to establish a national certification board in order to
2 enable certification of providers who are urgently needed in tribal communities.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives urges President Joseph Biden and
4 U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra to immediately authorize full implementation of the
5 programs and area certification boards developed by the Indian Health Service area offices and to grant all
6 authorities allowed under federal law to ensure that the programs are able to operate effectively and efficiently
7 to improve health outcomes for tribal members.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send a copy of this resolution to each
9 federally recognized tribal government in Montana, to the members of the Montana Congressional Delegation,
10 to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, to the majority and minority leaders of the
11 United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate, and to the presiding officers of the
12 United States Senate Committee on Indian Affairs and the United States House Natural Resources Committee.

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