

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 9
2 INTRODUCED BY J. WINDY BOY
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4 A RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA URGING
5 FEDERAL ACTION TO ALLOW FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMUNITY HEALTH AIDE PROGRAM.
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7 WHEREAS, in 2010 Congress authorized the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the
8 Indian Health Service to create a Community Health Aide Program designed to improve access to and delivery
9 of health care services to American Indians and Alaska Natives and to improve the health status of tribal
10 members; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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