



*Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth Health System*

August 20, 2013

Honorable Bruce Tutvedt, SD 3  
Chair, Economic Affairs Interim Committee  
State Capitol Helena, MT 59620

Dear Chair Tutvedt and Committee Members:

I am writing to your Committee regarding the events in the last legislature that removed the funding for our current Montana Professional Assistance Program and established an initiative to move the process into a state government function. As a Medical Staff Director, I have worked with state governments and provider assistance programs in five (5) states and have never seen a more robust program for providers as Montana's. As you well know, there is a national shortage of physicians across the country and we need to be able to recruit and retain the brightest and most talented providers to Montana. Practicing medicine is challenging at best and one of the most stressful professions. There is often not a good blend between personal and professional lives which adds to stress and deteriorating health. What MPAP brings to our providers is a high quality assessment, intervention, plan development, treatment and continual monitoring of those who need assistance.

The current process with MPAP has a significant impact on our providers. MPAP is responsive, timely, accountable and has integrity. All of those factors provide one important issue for our providers and that is trust. They trust that MPAP has their best interest at heart, they trust that their information is protected and they trust that MPAP is working with them to return them to a meaningful and functional practice of medicine.

The unseen impact is for the patients and citizens of Montana. They benefit from having a quality program that keeps our providers healthy and providing care in some of the most remote areas of Montana. Without a robust program, many physicians might slip through the cracks of the medical community and potentially cause harm to patients.

The Montana Medical Staff Services Association (MTMSS) and I encourage you to work toward change in the legislative action of the previous session to continue and support MPAP for our providers, hospitals and the citizens of Montana.

Sincerely,

Kay Brown, CPMSM, CPCS  
Director, Medical Staff Administration

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