OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

BRIAN SCHWEITZER
GOVERNOR

JOHN BOHLINGER
LT. GOVERNOR

September 30, 2005

RE: Comments on State of Montana Proposed 1115 Medicaid Waiver Concept Paper

Dear Interested Party:

As Governor of the State of Montana, I am focused on ensuring affordable and accessible health care is a reality for all Montanans with special concern for our citizens that are the last and have the least. Based on estimates from the Montana State Planning Grant survey conducted in 2003, approximately 19% of Montanans are uninsured. This level is unacceptable to me. The Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) has identified an opportunity to seek a Medicaid waiver from the federal government to increase health care coverage for the uninsured. My staff has reviewed the proposal and report that it may provide health care for an additional 5,000 uninsured Montanans. Now, I want to hear from all Montanans.

The DPHHS has prepared an 1115 Medicaid Waiver Concept Paper that describes the proposal. I have attached it for your review along with a letter sent to me by Ms. Joan Miles, the Director of DPHHS. It is a complicated proposal but the opportunity it could provide must be thoroughly examined. To assist you in your review, I have asked DPHHS to conduct a robust consultation process, including a variety of methods to gain feedback and answer questions. This includes a website where information is available and where you can access an electronic copy of the concept paper, view other documents and correspondence regarding the Medicaid waiver, become aware of public forums and submit questions and comments. The website is www.dphhs.mt.gov. In addition to the public forums identified on the website, please let DPHHS know if your organization is willing to host a community forum and they will do their best to come and provide information and answer your questions so we can gain input from your communities' expertise.

I invite your comments and questions on this 1115 Medicaid Waiver Concept Paper. Please submit written comments and questions to DPHHS within 60 days of the date of this letter to: DPHHS Attn: Jeff Buska, PO Box 4210, Helena, MT 59604.

Thank you for helping and for your advice. I look forward to moving Montana forward and bringing hope to Montana families.

Sincerely,

BRIAN SCHWEITZER
Governor

STATE CAPITOL • P.O. BOX 200801 • HELENA, MONTANA 59620-0801
TELEPHONE: 406-444-3111 • FAX: 406-444-5529 • WEBSITE: WWW.MT.GOV