

BHAM Montana Legislative Update – February 14, 2025

The Legislators work for the people of Montana. It's imperative that you stand up and make your voice heard!

To participate in any of the committee hearings, click this link and sign up:

<https://www.legmt.gov/participate/>

You can review all of the bills BHAM is tracking [HERE](#)

Bills we're watching:

Medicaid Expansion: ALL HANDS ON DECK MONDAY AT 3:00 PM

1. [HB245](#), Senator Buttrey, successfully passed the House and will be heard Monday in the Senate Public Health, Welfare, and Safety Committee on Monday, February 17th at 3:00 p.m. Every provider that will suffer serious consequences at the loss of Medicaid Expansion should plan to testify. **BHAM strongly supports this bill and encourages advocacy efforts to move it forward.**
2. [HB230](#) from Representative Caferro has been tabled in committee. **BHAM strongly supported this bill.**
3. [SB62](#) from Senator Glimm was voted down on the floor. **BHAM strongly opposed this bill.**
4. [SB199](#), from Senators Trebas and Emmrich, was voted down on the floor. **BHAM strongly opposed this bill.**

Medicaid Rate Reimbursement:

The 2023 Legislative Session approved \$339M to bring Medicaid rates up to the Guidehouse rate study guidelines. Unfortunately, those guidelines were based on 2020 costs for Medicaid providers. In the last five years since the 2020 costs were studied, inflation and personnel costs have climbed dramatically, and providers are once again well-below the cost of delivering the care. Urgent action is needed this session.

1. [HB419](#) (Bedey) (formerly [LC4190](#) then LC821) **HB419 will be heard in Health and Human Services on Tuesday, Feb. 18th.** This bill will allow DPHHS to review cost reports for Medicaid providers in senior and long-term care, mental health, substance use disorder and intellectually developmentally disabled programs every other year. Medicaid providers are already 5 years behind costs in reimbursement. **BHAM strongly supports this bill and encourages advocacy efforts to move it forward with the understanding that cost reporting adjustments need to occur every two years.**

2. LC2035 (not yet drafted) from Representative Caferro, would allow for an inflationary factor to be introduced into statute for all Medicaid providers, similar to the inflationary factor already in statute for physicians who accept Medicaid. This bill is not yet scheduled for hearing. **BHAM strongly supports this bill and encourages advocacy efforts to move it forward.**

School-Based Mental Health

[HB385](#), Romano, will be heard in Education Committee on Monday, February 17th at 3:00 p.m. BHAM supports this bill.

Pre-Authorization Bills

[HB398](#) (Karlen) and [HB399](#) (Karlen) will be heard in Health and Human Services Committee on Tuesday, Feb. 18th at 3:00 p.m. **BHAM supports both of these bills.**

[HB398](#) (Karlen) and [HB399](#) (Karlen) will be heard in House Business and Labor Committee on Friday, February 21st at 8:00 a.m. **BHAM supports both of these bills.**

Behavioral Health Services for Future Generations (BHSFG)

We don't know when Part B Budget will take Executive Action on any or all of the recommendations included in the Governor's Budget, but we'll keep you posted.

Children's and Families Services Division (CFSD)

A zero-based budgeting exercise for CFSD has been held in Part B Budget Committee and will continue Monday, Feb. 17th and Tuesday, Feb. 18th, from 8am to 12 pm each day. Foster program and adoption providers should come and be ready to offer public comment. Shelter care providers should also be present to emphasize the need for rate reimbursement increases for shelter care and prevention services. Although it is not a Medicaid service, it is a very important part of the continuum of care for children in the system.