

BHAM Montana Legislative Update – February 23, 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:

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Bills we're watching:

Medicaid Expansion: ALL HANDS ON DECK MONDAY AT TUESDAY, FEB. 25TH AT 2:00

1. [HB245](#), Senator Buttrey, has been referred to Senate Finance and Claims and will be heard on February 25th at 2:00 pm. **BHAM strongly supports this bill and encourages advocacy efforts to move it forward.**
2. [HB386](#), Rep. Howell, will be heard in Appropriations on Tuesday, February 25th at 2:00 p.m. **BHAM supports this bill and encourages advocacy efforts to move it forward.**

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 was 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.**

Behavioral Health Services for Future Generations (BHSFG)

The Behavioral Health Services for Future Generations (BHSFG) recommendations that are in the governor's budget will probably be heard in Part B Budget on Monday, February 24th beginning at 7:00 a.m. BHAM also believes there will be rate reimbursement decision packages discussed as well.

Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers (CCBHC)

HB574, Rep Gillette, will be heard in Health and Human Services on Wednesday, February 25th at 3:00 p.m. **BHAM supports this bill and encourages advocacy efforts to move it forward.**

Children's and Families Services Division (CFSD)

1. **SB50**, Senator Emmrich, will be heard in Senate Finance and Claims on Tuesday, February 25th at 2:00 p.m. **BHAM now supports this bill with the new amendments.**