

## **BHAM Montana Legislative Update – April 21, 2025**

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

To view any of the legislative action, click this link: [Legislative Hearings Streamed](#)

### **Budget Bill:**

As we begin to wrap up this legislative session, our attention turns to the budget bill, HB2, particularly Part B which is the DPHHS budget. HB 2 flew through the Senate in record time and has been returned to the House to concur or not concur sometime this week. If the House concurs, it will proceed to the Governor's desk. If the House does not concur, it will go into conference committee so both floors can iron out the details.

**BHAM strongly supports HB2, Part B as it exists now and urges no removals.**

### **Medicaid Rate Reimbursement:**

[HB419](#) (Bedey). This bill will allow DPHHS to review cost reports for Medicaid providers in senior and long-term care, mental health, substance use disorder and intellectual developmentally disabled programs every other year. Medicaid providers are already 5 years behind costs in reimbursement. This bill has sailed through the Legislature and will be heard on 3<sup>rd</sup> reading tomorrow on the Senate Floor, and then most likely go to the Governor for signing. **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.**

### **Create a new Health Facilities Department:**

[HB851](#) (Fitzpatrick) would have created a new department that would transfer administration of all state-owned health facilities plus the Medicaid and non-Medicaid services provided by private mental health, substance use disorder, and developmentally disabled community providers to a new department. This bill was unanimously tabled in the Senate Public Health, Welfare and Safety Committee. Healthcare is a continuum of care, and the creation of another silo would decrease the quality of care that patients receive. **BHAM strongly opposed this bill.**

### **Tax Bills:**

Competing tax bills continue to die and rise again on both floors. The outcome of these bills will directly impact the amount of revenue that is available for behavioral health and other DPHHS programs in future years.