



2800 Tenth Avenue North
PO Box 37000
Billings, MT 59107-7000

April 18, 2012

The Honorable Representative Tom Berry
Chairman of the Economic Affairs Interim Committee
62nd Montana Legislature
PO Box 201706
Helena, MT 59620

EMAIL: pmurdo@mt.gov

Dear Representative Tom Berry and Members of the Economic Affairs Interim Committee:

Billings Clinic is a not for profit physician-led integrated health care organization comprised of a 240 physician multi-specialty group practice, a 272-bed regional acute care tertiary-level hospital, regional primary care clinics, and long term care serving a population of 600,000 in eastern Montana, northern Wyoming, and the western Dakotas. We also manage six critical access hospitals in this same region.

There has been Federal bipartisan support for the payment and delivery system reforms that are envisioned in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA). Efforts to incent more collaboration and shared risk across the continuum of care settings and providers will enhance quality, reduce costs, and provide greater value for payers and patients.

We applaud the Commissioner of Securities and Insurance (CSI) engagement of health care industry stakeholders in Montana to address important components of delivery system reform. Billings Clinic is participating in three of the CSI facilitated advisory councils:

- Patient-Centered Medical Home Advisory Council
- Montana All-Payer, All-Claims Database Advisory Council
- Health Insurance Exchange Stakeholder Involvement Council

These councils are gathering critical information to guide policymakers and industry leaders as we seek solutions to provide affordable health care coverage for all Montanans. We believe the results of these efforts have ongoing value to Montana regardless of the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling on the constitutionality of PPACA.

On behalf of Billings Clinic, I thank the leadership of the Economic Affairs Interim Committee for the opportunity to provide comments today.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristianne B. Wilson".

Kristianne B. Wilson
Executive Director, Health Policy

Copy: Monica J. Lindeen, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance, Montana State Auditor
Aimee Grmoljez, Crowley Fleck PLLP, Billings Clinic Lobbyist