

RESOLUTION NO. R15-18

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING FIXING THE PRIMARY CARE FUNDING CLIFF.

WHEREAS, RiverStone Health Clinic, as part of America's Health Center network, is a vital part of our nation's safety net providing high quality primary and preventive healthcare to nearly 20,000 local citizens among the 23 million low-income people currently served by Health Centers; and

WHEREAS, RiverStone Health Clinic and other Health Centers have a documented record proving their success in improving health, reducing illness, and significantly reducing health costs; and

WHEREAS, the survival of RiverStone Health Clinic is critically important to the health and well-being of our patients and community; and

WHEREAS, through its Montana Family Medicine Residency and other training and education activities, RiverStone Health provides our community with an ongoing source of much-needed primary care physicians and other healthcare professionals; and

WHEREAS, the impending federal Health Center Funding Cliff threatens the viability of the RiverStone Health Clinic and every other Health Center with a reduction of as much as 70 percent in annual federal grants, resulting in the loss of capacity to care for as many as 9,000 of RiverStone Health Clinic's neediest and most vulnerable patients; and

WHEREAS, scheduled reductions in the Teaching Health Center and National Health Service Corps threaten the availability of primary care providers to serve the ongoing healthcare needs of our community's residents;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Laurel, Montana, strongly encourages the President and Congress to take immediate action to:


- Prevent reductions in community health center funding;
- Reauthorize and full fund the Teaching Health Center program at its current level; and
- Fully fund the National Health Service Corps at its current level.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the City Council on March 17, 2015, by Council Member Dickerson.

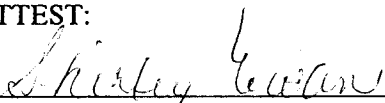
PASSED and APPROVED by the City Council of the City of Laurel this 17th day of March, 2015.

APPROVED by the Mayor this 17th day of March, 2015.

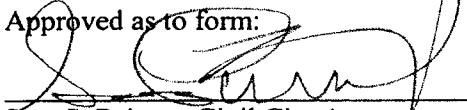
CITY OF LAUREL


Mark A. Mace, Mayor

ATTEST:


Shirley Ewan, Clerk/Treasurer

Approved as to form:


Sam S. Painter, Civil City Attorney