

RESOLUTION NO. 15-_____

A RESOLUTION OF THE BILLINGS, MONTANA, CITY COUNCIL URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PREVENT REDUCTIONS IN COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER FUNDING,

WHEREAS, Riverstone Health Clinic, as part of America’s health center network, is a vital part of the nation’s safety net, providing high-quality primary and preventative 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 its patients and community; and

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

WHEREAS, an impending Federal Health Center funding cliff threatens the viability of RiverStone Health Clinic and every other health center with a reduction of as much as 70% 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 reduction in the Teaching Health Center and National Health Service Corps threaten the availability of primary care providers to serve the ongoing healthcare needs of the community’s residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BILLINGS, MONTANA, that it encourages the President and Congress to take immediate action to:

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

BY:

ATTEST:

Thomas W. Hanel, Mayor

Cari Martin, City Clerk