

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1

2 INTRODUCED BY E. STAFMAN

3
4 A RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA EXPRESSING
5 APPRECIATION AND GRATITUDE TO HEALTH CARE WORKERS AND SUPPORT STAFF FOR THEIR
6 EFFORTS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

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8 WHEREAS, in 2020, Montana experienced in COVID-19 the most severe pandemic in a century; and
9 WHEREAS, as of December 15, 2020, the Department of Public Health and Human Services reported
10 that 74,040 Montanans had been sickened and 3,119 people had been hospitalized as a result of the pandemic
11 by that point in the year; and

12 WHEREAS, on that same date, the department reported that 826 Montanans had died from the
13 disease; and

14 WHEREAS, many others diagnosed with COVID-19 have suffered lingering medical issues; and

15 WHEREAS, Montana hospitals have been at or near capacity during the pandemic; and

16 WHEREAS, Montana's health care providers have been called upon to work under conditions far more
17 challenging and stressful than normal during this pandemic, including the fear and uncertainty of a heightened
18 risk of infection; worry that they may carry COVID-19 into their homes and infect loved ones; a severely limited
19 supply of personal protective equipment; quickly evolving public health recommendations and protocols from
20 local leadership, medical and public health experts, and political leaders; unusually high and increasing
21 demands to work longer hours as their colleagues become sick or are quarantined; exposure to the physical
22 and emotional strain of treating patients during a major health crisis; providing compassionate end-of-life care
23 to patients facing their final moments without the comfort of in-person friends or families; and balancing their
24 commitment to help others, which likely led them to choose health care as a profession, with the
25 understandable commitment to protect themselves and their loved ones; and

26 WHEREAS, our health care workers have stepped up in countless ways, from physicians and nurses to
27 environmental services and facilities staff, chaplains, medical technicians, and the dedicated leaders working
28 behind the scenes; and

1 WHEREAS, health care workers have responded exceedingly well to the pandemic by showing up,
2 putting in long hours, rapidly adapting the ways in which they provide care, revising schedules, embracing
3 telehealth, and even repurposing facilities or creating improvised personal protective equipment; and

4 WHEREAS, health care workers have continued to demonstrate compassion and maintain a brave
5 front despite the fears they may harbor; and

6 WHEREAS, some nurses, doctors, and caregivers have paid the price of love with their own health and
7 death; and

8 WHEREAS, whether they were conscious of it or not, our health care workers' choice testified to a
9 belief that it is better to live a shorter life serving others than a longer one resisting that call; and

10 WHEREAS, in many communities, Montanans have stood at their windows or doorsteps to applaud
11 health care workers in gratitude and awe; and

12 WHEREAS, our health care workers are the saints next door, who have awakened something
13 important in our hearts; and

14 WHEREAS, as Pope Francis recently said of all health care workers, "They are the antibodies to the
15 virus of indifference. They remind us that our lives are a gift and we grow by giving of ourselves, not preserving
16 ourselves but losing ourselves in service".

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18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
19 MONTANA:

20 That, on behalf of all Montana residents, the House of Representatives returns the love of Montana
21 health care workers by honoring the workers and offering the highest praise and deepest gratitude for their
22 heroic actions during this public health crisis.

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