

LC 0493/01

deinstitutionalization policy of this state.

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Approved by Committee
on Public Health, Welfare
& Safety

1 *Senate* JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 15
2 INTRODUCED BY *Sen. Thomas Jordan Blaylock*
3 *Watt*

4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF
5 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA EXPRESSING THE
6 LEGISLATURE'S INTENT TO ADEQUATELY MAINTAIN FUNDING FOR
7 COMMUNITY-BASED FACILITIES FOR DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED
8 PERSONS IN MONTANA AND FOR COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTERS
9 LOCATED IN MONTANA.

11 WHEREAS, the Legislature established a policy of and
12 programs for deinstitutionalization of citizens afflicted
13 with developmental disabilities, mental illness, and mental
14 retardation; and

15 WHEREAS, the deinstitutionalization program has
16 substantially decreased the populations of the Warm Springs
17 State Hospital and the Boulder River School and Hospital;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, the reduction in population of state
20 institutions saves valuable fiscal resources of the state;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, substantial savings have inured to the state
23 because of a community emphasis in programs; and

24 WHEREAS, the developmentally disabled, mentally ill,
25 and mentally retarded citizens of Montana have benefited

1 greatly from these programs and have increased their
2 potential for a more fulfilling, productive, and enjoyable
3 life as a result of participation in community-based
4 programs; and

5 WHEREAS, community-based programs provide the least
6 restrictive alternative to developmentally disabled,
7 mentally ill, and mentally retarded citizens as guaranteed
8 by law; and

9 WHEREAS, there is considerable uncertainty among the
10 providers of community-based services and programs as to
11 whether or not continued support can be expected from state
12 government.

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE
15 OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

16 That the Legislature recognizes and appreciates the
17 value and merit of existing community services and programs
18 for developmentally disabled, mentally ill, and mentally
19 retarded citizens and realizes the need for continued and
20 substantial state support for these programs. Therefore, it
21 is the intent of the legislature that the state shall
22 continue its obligation to support financially those
23 programs that are needed to maintain the developmentally
24 disabled, mentally ill, and mentally retarded citizens who
25 are returned to the community as a part of the

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