1	HOUSE BILL NO. 27
2	INTRODUCED BY SIMON
3	
4	A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROHIBITING HEALTH CARRIERS AND MANAGED CARE
5	ORGANIZATIONS FROM INTERFERING WITH CERTAIN MEDICAL COMMUNICATIONS MADE BY PERSONS
6	PROVIDING HEALTH CARE SERVICES IN A MANAGED CARE SETTING; PROVIDING DEFINITIONS;
7	PROVIDING A PENALTY; AND PROVIDING AN APPLICABILITY DATE."
8	
9	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:
10	
11	NEW SECTION. Section 1. Definitions. As used in [sections 1 through 4], unless the context
12	requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:
13	(1) "Enrollee" means the individual to whom a health care service is provided or will be provided
14	by a managed care organization.
15	(2) "Health care provider" or "provider" means an individual licensed or certified pursuant to Title
16	37 to provide health care services through a managed care organization.
17	(3) "Health carrier" means an entity that by policy, contract, certificate, or agreement agrees to
18	provide, deliver, arrange for, pay for, or reimburse the costs of a health care service to an enrollee.
19∙	(4) "Health plan" means a policy, contract, certificate, or agreement entered into, offered, or issued
20	by a health carrier to provide, deliver, arrange for, pay for, or reimburse the costs of a health care service
21	to an enrollee.
22	(5) "Managed care organization" means an entity from which an enrollee agrees to use health care
23	providers who are managed by, owned by, under contract with, or employed by a health carrier or managed
24	care organization. The term includes a health maintenance organization.
25	(6) "Medical communication" means:
26	(a) a communication made by a health care provider to an enrollee or to the guardian or other legal
27	representative of an enrollee receiving health care services from the provider:
28	(i) concerning the mental or physical health care needs or treatment of the enrollee and the
29	provisions, terms, or requirements of the health plan or another health plan relating to the needs or
30	treatment of the enrollee; and

1	(ii) ir	ncluding	a communica	tion	concerning	3
2	(Δ)	a test	consultation	or	treatment	(

- (A) a test, consultation, or treatment option and a risk or benefit associated with the test, consultation, or option;
- (B) variation among health care providers and health care facilities, as defined in 50-5-101, in experience, quality of health care services, or health outcomes;
- (C) the basis or standard for the decision of the enrollee's health carrier or managed care organization or another health carrier or managed care organization to authorize or deny a health care service;
- (D) the process used by the enrollee's health carrier or managed care organization or another health carrier or managed care organization to determine whether to authorize or deny a health care service;
- (E) a financial incentive or disincentive provided by the enrollee's health carrier or managed care organization or another health carrier or managed care organization to a health care provider to authorize or deny a health care service; or
- (F) the basis for termination of the contract to provide health care services made between the provider and the health carrier or managed care organization;
- (b) a communication made by a health care provider to another health care provider, an employee or contractor of the enrollee's managed care organization, or an employee of the health carrier advocating a particular method of treatment on behalf of an enrollee.

1.9

<u>NEW SECTION.</u> Section 2. Gag clauses and other action affecting medical communications prohibited -- exceptions. (1) A health carrier or managed care organization may not by an oral or written contract, by an oral or written direction or requirement, or by a financial inducement or penalty prohibit or discourage a provider from making a medical communication to an enrollee. A contract, direction, requirement, or financial inducement or penalty violating this subsection is void.

- (2) Subsection (1) does not apply to:
- (a) an oral or written contract, direction, requirement, or financial inducement or penalty prohibiting a provider from disclosing a trade secret, as defined in 30-14-402, to the same extent as other employees or contractors of the health carrier or managed care organization are prohibited from disclosing the trade secret:
 - (b) an oral or written contract, direction, requirement, or financial inducement or penalty prohibiting



a health care provider from referring an enrollee to another health plan or managed care organization in which the provider making the referral has a direct financial interest; and

(c) the terms of an oral or written contract mutually agreed upon by a health carrier or managed care organization and a provider requiring the provider to participate in and cooperate with all programs, policies, and procedures implemented by the health carrier or managed care organization to ensure, review, or improve the quality of health care.

1.3

<u>NEW SECTION.</u> Section 3. Sanction because of medical communication prohibited. A health carrier or managed care organization may not take any of the following actions with regard to a health care provider because the provider made a medical communication to an enrollee or to the guardian or legal representative of the enrollee:

- (1) terminate an agreement between the health carrier or managed care organization and the health care provider to provide health care services;
 - (2) reduce compensation to the provider;
 - (3) demote the provider in regard to relative seniority within the managed care organization;
 - (4) transfer the provider to other duties within the managed care organization;
 - (5) deny the provider admitting or other privileges; or
- (6) take other action against the provider in retaliation for a medical communication made by the provider to an enrollee.

<u>NEW SECTION.</u> Section 4. Civil penalty -- civil action for collection of penalty. (1) A health carrier or a managed care organization violating [section 2 or 3] is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$5,000 for each violation. Each day of violation constitutes a separate violation for the purposes of this section.

- (2) A health care provider making a medical communication to an enrollee in violation of a contract, direction, requirement, or financial inducement or penalty prohibited by [section 2] may bring a civil action to collect the penalty provided for in subsection (1) in the district court for the county in which the communication was made.
- (3) A health care provider with whom a contract to provide health care services to enrollees is terminated in violation of [section 3] may bring a civil action to collect the penalty provided for in subsection (1) in the district court for the county in which the provider resides.



(4) In addition to other enforcement methods provided by law, the commissioner may bring a civil
action in the district court of the first judicial district to collect the civil penalty provided for in subsection
(1) from a person violating a provision of [sections 1 through 4]. An amount collected by the commissione
pursuant to this section must be deposited in the general fund.
NEW SECTION. Section 5. Codification instruction. [Sections 1 through 4] are intended to be
codified as an integral part of Title 33, and the provisions of Title 33 apply to [sections 1 through 4].
NEW SECTION. Section 6. Applicability. [This act] applies to contracts entered into or renewed
after [the effective date of this act] between a health care provider and a health carrier or managed care
organization

-END-

STATE OF MONTANA - FISCAL NOTE

Fiscal Note for HB0027, as introduced

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION:

An act prohibiting health carriers and managed care organizations from interfering with certain medical communications made by persons providing health care services in a managed care setting.

ASSUMPTIONS:

 The number of actions brought under this act will not use significant judicial resources nor result in significant penalties collected and deposited in the general fund.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

DAVID LEWIS, BUDGET DIRECTOR DATE Office of Budget and Program Planning

BRUCK SIMON, PRIMARY SPONSOR DATE

Fiscal Note for HB0027, as introduced

HB 27

1	HOUSE BILL NO. 27
2	INTRODUCED BY SIMON
3	
4	A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROHIBITING HEALTH CARRIERS AND MANAGED CARE
5	ORGANIZATIONS FROM INTERFERING WITH CERTAIN MEDICAL COMMUNICATIONS MADE BY PERSONS
6	PROVIDING HEALTH CARE SERVICES IN A MANAGED CARE SETTING; PROVIDING DEFINITIONS;
7	PROVIDING A PENALTY; AND PROVIDING AN APPLICABILITY DATE."
8	
9	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:
10	
11	NEW SECTION. Section 1. Definitions. As used in [sections 1 through 4], unless the context
12	requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:
13	(1) "Enrollee" means the individual to whom a health care service is provided or will be provided
14	by a managed care organization.
15	(2) "Health care provider" or "provider" means an individual licensed or certified pursuant to Title
16	37 to provide health care services through a managed care organization.
17	(3) "Health carrier" means an entity that by policy, contract, certificate, or agreement agrees to
18	provide, deliver, arrange for, pay for, or reimburse the costs of a health care service to an enrollee.
19	(4) "Health plan" means a policy, contract, certificate, or agreement entered into, offered, or issued
20	by a health carrier to provide, deliver, arrange for, pay for, or reimburse the costs of a health care service
21	to an enrollee.
22	(5) "Managed care organization" means an entity from which an enrollee agrees to use health care
23	providers who are managed by, owned by, under contract with, or employed by a health carrier or managed
24	care organization. The term includes a health maintenance organization.
25	(6) "Medical communication" means:
26	(a) a communication made by a health care provider to an enrollee or to the guardian or other legal
27	representative of an enrollee receiving health care services from the provider:
28	(i) concerning the mental or physical health care needs or treatment of the enrollee and the
29	provisions, terms, or requirements of the health plan or another health plan relating to the needs or
30	treatment of the enrollee; and

1	(ii) including a communication concerning:
2	(A) a test, consultation, or treatment option and a risk or benefit associated with the test,
3	consultation, or option;
4	(B) variation among health care providers and health care facilities, as defined in 50-5-101, in
5	experience, quality of health care services, or health outcomes;
6	(C) the basis or standard for the decision of the enrollee's health carrier or managed care
7	organization or another health earrier or managed care organization to authorize or deny a health care
8	service;
9	(D) the process used by the enrollee's health carrier or managed care organization or another health
10	carrier or managed care organization to determine whether to authorize or deny a health care service; OR
11	(E) a financial incentive or disincentive provided by the enrollee's health carrier or managed care
12	organization or another health carrier or managed care organization to a health care provider to authorize
13	or deny a health care service; er
14	(F) the basis for termination of the contract to provide health care services made between the
15	provider and the health-carrier or managed care organization;
16	(b) a communication made by a health care provider to another health care provider, an employee
17	or contractor of the enrollee's managed care organization, or an employee of the health carrier advocating
18	a particular method of treatment on behalf of an enrollee.
19	
20	NEW SECTION. Section 2. Gag clauses and other action affecting medical communications
21	prohibited exceptions. (1) A health carrier or managed care organization may not by an oral or written
22	contract, by an oral or written direction or requirement, or by a financial inducement or penalty prohibit or
23	discourage a provider from making a medical communication to an enrollee. A contract, direction,
24	requirement, or financial inducement or penalty violating this subsection is void.
25	(2) Subsection (1) does not apply to:
26	(a) an oral or written contract, direction, requirement, or financial inducement or penalty prohibiting
27	a provider from disclosing a trade secret, as defined in 30-14-402, to the same extent as other employees
28	or contractors of the health carrier or managed care organization are prohibited from disclosing the trade



secret;

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(b) an oral or written contract, direction, requirement, or financial inducement or penalty prohibiting

a health care provider from referring an enrollee to another health plan or managed care organization in which the provider making the referral has a direct financial interest; and

(c) the terms of an oral or written contract mutually agreed upon by a health carrier or managed care organization and a provider requiring the provider to participate in and cooperate with all programs, policies, and procedures implemented by the health carrier or managed care organization to ensure, review, or improve the quality of health care.

<u>NEW SECTION.</u> Section 3. Sanction because of medical communication prohibited. A health carrier or managed care organization may not take any of the following actions with regard to a health care provider because the provider made a medical communication to an enrollee or to the guardian or legal representative of the enrollee:

- (1) terminate an agreement between the health carrier or managed care organization and the health care provider to provide health care services;
 - (2) reduce compensation to the provider;
 - (3) demote the provider in regard to relative seniority within the managed care organization;
 - (4) transfer the provider to other duties within the managed care organization;
 - (5) deny the provider admitting or other privileges; or
- (6) take other action against the provider in retaliation for a medical communication made by the provider to an enrollee.

<u>NEW SECTION.</u> Section 4. Civil penalty -- civil action for collection of penalty. (1) A health carrier or a managed care organization violating [section 2 or 3] is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$5,000 for each violation. Each day of violation constitutes a separate violation for the purposes of this section.

- 24 (2) A health eare provider making a medical communication to an enrollee in violation of a contract,
 25 direction, requirement, or financial inducement or penalty prohibited by [section 2] may bring a civil action
 26 to collect the penalty provided for in subsection (1) in the district court for the county in which the
 27 communication was made.
 - (3) A health eare provider with whom a contract to provide health care services to enrollees is terminated in violation of [section 3] may bring a civil action to collect the penalty provided for in subsection (1) in the district court for the county in which the provider resides.



(4)(2) In addition to other enforcement methods provided by law, the commissioner may bring a
civil action in the district court of the first judicial district to collect the civil penalty provided for in
subsection (1) from a person violating a provision of [sections 1 through 4]. An amount collected by the
commissioner pursuant to this section must be deposited in the general fund.
NEW SECTION. Section 5. Codification instruction. [Sections 1 through 4] are intended to be
codified as an integral part of Title 33, and the provisions of Title 33 apply to [sections 1 through 4].
NEW SECTION. Section 6. Applicability. [This act] applies to contracts entered into or renewed
after [the effective date of this act] between a health care provider and a health carrier or managed care
organization.
END

1	HOUSE BILL NO. 27
2	INTRODUCED BY SIMON
3	
4	A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROHIBITING HEALTH CARRIERS AND MANAGED CARE
5	ORGANIZATIONS FROM INTERFERING WITH CERTAIN MEDICAL COMMUNICATIONS MADE BY PERSONS
6	PROVIDING HEALTH CARE SERVICES IN A MANAGED CARE SETTING; PROVIDING DEFINITIONS;
7	PROVIDING A PENALTY; AND PROVIDING AN APPLICABILITY DATE."
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9	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:
10	
11	NEW SECTION. Section 1. Definitions. As used in [sections 1 through 4], unless the context
12	requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:
13	(1) "Enrollee" means the individual to whom a health care service is provided or will be provided
14	by a managed care organization.
15	(2) "Health care provider" or "provider" means an individual licensed or certified pursuant to Title
16	37 to provide health care services through a managed care organization.
17	(3) "Health carrier" means an entity that by policy, contract, certificate, or agreement agrees to
18	provide, deliver, arrange for, pay for, or reimburse the costs of a health care service to an enrollee.
19	(4) "Health plan" means a policy, contract, certificate, or agreement entered into, offered, or issued
20	by a health carrier to provide, deliver, arrange for, pay for, or reimburse the costs of a health care service
21	to an enrollee.
22	(5) "Managed care organization" means an entity from which an enrollee agrees to use health care
23	providers who are managed by, owned by, under contract with, or employed by a health carrier or managed
24	care organization. The term includes a health maintenance organization.
25	(6) "Medical communication" means:
26	(a) a communication made by a health care provider to an enrollee or to the guardian or other legal
27	representative of an enrollee receiving health care services from the provider:
28	(i) concerning the mental or physical health care needs or treatment of the enrollee and the
29	provisions, terms, or requirements of the health plan or another health plan relating to the needs or

treatment of the enrollee; and

1 (ii) including a	communication	concerning:
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- (A) a test, consultation, or treatment option and a risk or benefit associated with the test, consultation, or option;
- (B) variation among health care providers and health care facilities, as defined in 50-5-101, in experience, quality of health care services, or health outcomes;
- (C) the basis or standard for the decision of the enrollee's health carrier or managed care organization er another health carrier or managed care organization to authorize or deny a health care service;
- (D) the process used by the enrollee's health carrier or managed care organization or another health carrier or managed care organization to determine whether to authorize or deny a health care service; OR
- (E) a financial incentive or disincentive provided by the enrollee's health carrier or managed care organization or another health carrier or managed care organization to a health care provider to authorize or deny a health care service; or
- (F) the basis for termination of the contract to provide health care services made between the provider and the health carrier or managed care organization;
- (b) a communication made by a health care provider to another health care provider, an employee or contractor of the enrollee's managed care organization, or an employee of the health carrier advocating a particular method of treatment on behalf of an enrollee.

<u>NEW SECTION.</u> Section 2. Gag clauses and other action affecting medical communications prohibited -- exceptions. (1) A health carrier or managed care organization may not by an oral or written contract, by an oral or written direction or requirement, or by a financial inducement or penalty prohibit or discourage a provider from making a medical communication to an enrollee. A contract, direction, requirement, or financial inducement or penalty violating this subsection is void.

- (2) Subsection (1) does not apply to:
- (a) an oral or written contract, direction, requirement, or financial inducement or penalty prohibiting a provider from disclosing a trade secret, as defined in 30-14-402, to the same extent as other employees or contractors of the health carrier or managed care organization are prohibited from disclosing the trade secret;
 - (b) an oral or written contract, direction, requirement, or financial inducement or penalty prohibiting



a health care provider	from referring	an enrollee to	another hea	ith plan or	managed	care	organization	in
which the provider ma	aking the refer	al has a direct	financial inte	rest; and				

(c) the terms of an oral or written contract mutually agreed upon by a health carrier or managed care organization and a provider requiring the provider to participate in and cooperate with all programs, policies, and procedures implemented by the health carrier or managed care organization to ensure, review, or improve the quality of health care.

<u>NEW SECTION.</u> Section 3. Sanction because of medical communication prohibited. A health carrier or managed care organization may not take any of the following actions with regard to a health care provider because the provider made a medical communication to an enrollee or to the guardian or legal representative of the enrollee:

- (1) terminate an agreement between the health carrier or managed care organization and the health care provider to provide health care services;
 - (2) reduce compensation to the provider;
 - (3) demote the provider in regard to relative seniority within the managed care organization;
 - (4) transfer the provider to other duties within the managed care organization;
 - (5) deny the provider admitting or other privileges; or
- (6) take other action against the provider in retaliation for a medical communication made by the provider to an enrollee.

<u>NEW SECTION.</u> Section 4. Civil penalty -- civil action for collection of penalty. (1) A health carrier or a managed care organization violating [section 2 or 3] is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$5,000 for each violation. Each day of violation constitutes a separate violation for the purposes of this section.

- (2) A health care provider making a medical communication to an enrollee in violation of a contract, direction, requirement, or financial inducement or penalty prohibited by [section-2] may bring a civil action to collect the penalty provided for in subsection (1) in the district court for the county in which the communication was made.
- (3) A health care provider with whom a contract to provide health care services to enrolless is terminated in violation of [section 3] may bring a civil action to collect the penalty provided for in subsection (1) in the district court for the county in which the provider resides.



(4)(2) In addition to other enforcement methods provided by law, the commissioner may bring
civil action in the district court of the first judicial district to collect the civil penalty provided for in
subsection (1) from a person violating a provision of [sections 1 through 4]. An amount collected by the
commissioner pursuant to this section must be deposited in the general fund.

NEW SECTION. Section 5. Codification instruction. [Sections 1 through 4] are intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 33, and the provisions of Title 33 apply to [sections 1 through 4].

<u>NEW SECTION.</u> Section 6. Applicability. [This act] applies to contracts entered into or renewed after [the effective date of this act] between a health care provider and a health carrier or managed care organization.

-END-



1	HOUSE BILL NO. 27
2	INTRODUCED BY SIMON
3	MATTION OF BIT SHAFET
4	A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROHIBITING HEALTH CARRIERS AND MANAGED CARE
5	ORGANIZATIONS FROM INTERFERING WITH CERTAIN MEDICAL COMMUNICATIONS MADE BY PERSONS
6	PROVIDING HEALTH CARE SERVICES IN A MANAGED CARE SETTING; PROVIDING DEFINITIONS;
7	PROVIDING A PENALTY; <u>AMENDING SECTION 33-31-111, MCA;</u> AND PROVIDING AN APPLICABILITY
8	DATE."
9	
10	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:
11	
12	SECTION 1. SECTION 33-31-111, MCA, IS AMENDED TO READ:
13	"33-31-111. Statutory construction and relationship to other laws. (1) Except as otherwise
14	provided in this chapter, the insurance or health service corporation laws do not apply to any health
15	maintenance organization authorized to transact business under this chapter. This provision does not apply
16	to an insurer or health service corporation licensed and regulated pursuant to the insurance or health service
17	corporation laws of this state except with respect to its health maintenance organization activities
18	authorized and regulated pursuant to this chapter.
19	(2) Solicitation of enrollees by a health maintenance organization granted a certificate of authority
20	or its representatives may not be construed as a violation of any law relating to solicitation or advertising
21	by health professionals.
22	(3) A health maintenance organization authorized under this chapter may not be considered to be
23	practicing medicine and is exempt from Title 37, chapter 3, relating to the practice of medicine.
24	(4) The provisions of this chapter do not exempt a health maintenance organization from the
25	applicable certificate of need requirements under Title 50, chapter 5, parts 1 and 3.
26	(5) The provisions of this section do not exempt a health maintenance organization from material
27	transaction disclosure requirements under 33-3-701 through 33-3-704. A health maintenance organization
28	must be considered an insurer for the purposes of 33-3-701 through 33-3-704.
29	(6) This section does not exempt a health maintenance organization from prohibitions against

interference with certain communications as provided under [sections 2 through 5]."

55th Legislature HB0027.03

1	NEW SECTION. Section 2. Definitions. As used in [sections 1 through 4 2 THROUGH 5], unless
2	the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:

- (1) "Enrollee" means the individual to whom a health care service is provided or will be provided by a managed care organization. <u>UNDER A HEALTH PLAN.</u>
- 5 (2) "Health care provider" or "provider" means an individual licensed or certified pursuant to Title
 6 37 to provide health care services through a managed care organization. A HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL
 7 OR FACILITY.
- (3) "Health carrier" means an entity that by policy, contract, certificate, or agreement agrees THAT

 9 IS SUBJECT TO THE INSURANCE LAWS AND RULES OF THIS STATE AND THAT CONTRACTS, OFFERS

 10 TO CONTRACT, OR ENTERS INTO AN AGREEMENT to provide, deliver, arrange for, pay for, or reimburse

 11 ANY OF the costs of a health care service to an enrollee SERVICES. THE TERM INCLUDES A DISABILITY

 12 INSURER, HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATION, OR A HEALTH SERVICE CORPORATION OR OTHER

 13 ENTITY PROVIDING A HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN.
 - (4) "Health plan" OR "HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN" means a policy, contract, certificate, or agreement entered into, offered, or issued by a health carrier to provide, deliver, arrange for, pay for, or reimburse ANY OF the costs of a health care service to an enrollee SERVICES.
 - (5) "Managed care organization" means an entity from which an enrolled agrees to use health care providers who are managed by, owned by, under contract with, or employed by a health carrier or managed care organization THAT MANAGES, OWNS, CONTRACTS WITH, OR EMPLOYS HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS TO PROVIDE HEALTH CARE SERVICES UNDER A HEALTH PLAN. The term includes a health maintenance organization, AS DEFINED IN 33-31-102, AND AN ENTITY THAT DOES NOT ITSELF PROVIDE HEALTH PLANS.
 - (6) "Medical communication" means:
 - (a) a communication made by a health care provider to an enrollee or to the guardian or other legal representative of an enrollee receiving health care services from the provider:
- 26 (i) concerning the mental or physical health care needs or treatment of the enrollee and the 27 provisions, terms, or requirements of the health plan or another health plan relating to the needs or 28 treatment of the enrollee; and
- 29 (ii) including a communication concerning:
- 30 (A) a test, consultation, or treatment option and a risk or benefit associated with the test,



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HB 27

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- (B) variation among health care providers and health care facilities, as defined in 50-5-101, in experience, quality of health care services, or health outcomes;
- (C) the basis or standard for the decision of the enrollee's health carrier or managed care organization or another health carrier or managed care organization to authorize or deny a health care service;
- (D) the process used by the enrollee's health carrier or managed care organization or another health carrier or managed care organization to determine whether to authorize or deny a health care service; OR
- (E) a financial incentive or disincentive provided by the enrollee's health carrier or managed care organization or another health carrier or managed care organization to a health care provider to authorize or deny a health care service; or
- (F) the basis for termination of the contract to provide health care-services made between the provider and the health carrier or managed care organization;
- (b) a communication made by a health care provider to another health care provider, an employee or contractor of the enrollee's managed care organization, or an employee of the health carrier advocating a particular method of treatment on behalf of an enrollee.

<u>NEW SECTION.</u> Section 3. Gag clauses and other action affecting medical communications prohibited -- exceptions. (1) A health carrier or managed care organization may not by an oral or written contract, by an oral or written direction or requirement, or by a financial inducement or penalty prohibit exdiscourage a provider from making a medical communication to an enrollee. A contract, direction, requirement, or financial inducement or penalty violating this subsection is void.

- (2) Subsection (1) does not apply to:
- (a) an oral or written contract, direction, requirement, or financial inducement or penalty prohibiting a provider from disclosing a trade secret, as defined in 30-14-402, to the same extent as other employees or contractors of the health carrier or managed care organization are prohibited from disclosing the trade secret;
- (b) an oral or written contract, direction, requirement, or financial inducement or penalty prohibiting a health care provider from referring an enrollee to another health plan or managed care organization in which the provider making the referral has a direct financial interest; and



1	(c) the terms of an oral or written contract mutually agreed upon by a health carrier or managed
2	care organization and a provider requiring the provider to participate in and cooperate with all programs,
3	policies, and procedures implemented by the health carrier or managed care organization to ensure, review,
4	or improve the quality of health care.
5	
6	NEW SECTION. Section 4. Sanction because of medical communication prohibited. A health
7	carrier or managed care organization may not take any of the following actions with regard to a health care
8	provider because the provider made a medical communication to an enrollee or to the guardian or legal
9	representative of the enrollee:
10	(1) terminate an agreement between the health carrier or managed care organization and the health
11	care provider to provide health care services;
12	(2) reduce compensation to the provider;
13	(3) demote the provider in regard to relative seniority within the managed care organization;
14	(4) transfer the provider to other duties within the managed care organization;
15	(5) deny the provider admitting or other privileges; or
16	(6) take other action against the provider in retaliation for a medical communication made by the
17	provider to an enrollee.
18	
19	NEW SECTION. Section 5. Civil penalty civil action for collection of penalty. (1) A health carried
20	or a managed care organization violating [section 2 or 3 3 OR 4] is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed
21	\$5,000, AS PROVIDED IN 33-1-317, for each violation. Each day of violation constitutes a separate
22	violation for the purposes of this section.
23	(2) A health care provider making a medical communication to an enrollee in violation of a contract
24	direction, requirement, or financial inducement or penalty prohibited by {section 2} may bring a civil action
25	to collect the penalty provided for in subsection (1) in the district court for the county in which the
26	communication was made.
27	(3) A health care provider with whom a contract to provide health care services to enrollees is
28	terminated in violation of [section 3] may bring a civil action to collect the penalty provided for in
29	subsection (1) in the district court for the county in which the provider resides.



(4)(2) In addition to other enforcement methods provided by law, the commissioner may bring a

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organization.

1	civil action in the district court of the first judicial district to collect the civil penalty provided for in
2	subsection (1) from a person violating a provision of [sections 1 through 4 2 THROUGH 5]. An amount
3	collected by the commissioner pursuant to this section must be deposited in the general fund.
4	
5	NEW SECTION. Section 6. Codification instruction. [Sections 1 through 4 2 THROUGH 5] are
6	intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 33, and the provisions of Title 33 apply to [sections 4
7	through 4 2 THROUGH 5].
8	
9	NEW SECTION. Section 7. Applicability. [This act] applies to contracts entered into or renewed

after [the effective date of this act] between a health care provider and a health carrier or managed care

-END-

Legislative Services Division

1	HOUSE BILL NO. 27
2	INTRODUCED BY SIMON
3	
4	A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROHIBITING HEALTH CARRIERS AND MANAGED CARE
5	ORGANIZATIONS FROM INTERFERING WITH CERTAIN MEDICAL COMMUNICATIONS MADE BY PERSONS
6	PROVIDING HEALTH CARE SERVICES IN A MANAGED CARE SETTING; PROVIDING DEFINITIONS;
7	PROVIDING A PENALTY; AMENDING SECTION 33-31-111, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN APPLICABILITY
8	DATE."
9	
10	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:
11	
12	SECTION 1. SECTION 33-31-111, MCA, IS AMENDED TO READ:
13	"33-31-111. Statutory construction and relationship to other laws. (1) Except as otherwise
14	provided in this chapter, the insurance or health service corporation laws do not apply to any health
15	maintenance organization authorized to transact business under this chapter. This provision does not apply
16	to an insurer or health service corporation licensed and regulated pursuant to the insurance or health service
17	corporation laws of this state except with respect to its health maintenance organization activities
18	authorized and regulated pursuant to this chapter.
19	(2) Solicitation of enrollees by a health maintenance organization granted a certificate of authority
20	or its representatives may not be construed as a violation of any law relating to solicitation or advertising
21	by health professionals.
22	(3) A health maintenance organization authorized under this chapter may not be considered to be
23	practicing medicine and is exempt from Title 37, chapter 3, relating to the practice of medicine.
24	(4) The provisions of this chapter do not exempt a health maintenance organization from the
25	applicable certificate of need requirements under Title 50, chapter 5, parts 1 and 3.
26	(5) The provisions of this section do not exempt a health maintenance organization from material
27	transaction disclosure requirements under 33-3-701 through 33-3-704. A health maintenance organization
28	must be considered an insurer for the purposes of 33-3-701 through 33-3-704.
29	(6) This section does not exempt a health maintenance organization from prohibitions against
30	interference with certain communications as provided under (sections 2 through 5)."

1	NEW SECTION. Section 2. Definitions. As used in [sections 1 through 4 2 THROUGH 5], unless
2	the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:
3	(1) "Enrollee" means the individual to whom a health care service is provided or will be provided
4	by a managed care organization. UNDER A HEALTH PLAN.
5	(2) "Health care provider" or "provider" means an individual licensed or certified pursuant to Title
6	37 to provide health care services through a managed care organization. A HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL
7	OR FACILITY.

- (3) "Health carrier" means an entity that by policy, contract, certificate, or agreement agrees THAT IS SUBJECT TO THE INSURANCE LAWS AND RULES OF THIS STATE AND THAT CONTRACTS, OFFERS TO CONTRACT, OR ENTERS INTO AN AGREEMENT to provide, deliver, arrange for, pay for, or reimburse ANY OF the costs of a health care service to an enrolled SERVICES. THE TERM INCLUDES A DISABILITY INSURER, HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATION, OR A HEALTH SERVICE CORPORATION OR OTHER ENTITY PROVIDING A HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN.
- (4) "Health plan" <u>OR "HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN"</u> means a policy, contract, certificate, or agreement entered into, offered, or issued by a health carrier to provide, deliver, arrange for, pay for, or reimburse <u>ANY OF</u> the costs of a health care service to an enrollee <u>SERVICES</u>.
- providers who are managed by, owned by, under contract with, or employed by a health carrier or managed care organization THAT MANAGES, OWNS, CONTRACTS WITH, OR EMPLOYS HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS TO PROVIDE HEALTH CARE SERVICES UNDER A HEALTH PLAN. The term includes a health maintenance organization, AS DEFINED IN 33-31-102, AND AN ENTITY THAT DOES NOT ITSELF PROVIDE HEALTH PLANS.
 - (6) "Medical communication" means:
- (a) a communication made by a health care provider to an enrollee or to the guardian or other legal representative of an enrollee receiving health care services from the provider:
- (i) concerning the mental or physical health care needs or treatment of the enrollee and the provisions, terms, or requirements of the health plan or another health plan relating to the needs or treatment of the enrollee; and
- 29 (ii) including a communication concerning:
- 30 (A) a test, consultation, or treatment option and a risk or benefit associated with the test,



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- (B) variation among health care providers and health care facilities, as defined in 50-5-101, in experience, quality of health care services, or health outcomes;
- (C) the basis or standard for the decision of the enrollee's health carrier or managed care organization or another health carrier or managed care organization to authorize or deny a health care service;
- (D) the process used by the enrollee's health carrier or managed care organization or another health carrier or managed care organization to determine whether to authorize or deny a health care service; OR
- (E) a financial incentive or disincentive provided by the enrollee's health carrier or managed care organization or another health carrier or managed care organization to a health care provider to authorize or deny a health care service; or
- (F) the basis for termination of the contract to provide health care services made between the provider and the health carrier or managed care organization;
- (b) a communication made by a health care provider to another health care provider, an employee or contractor of the enrollee's managed care organization, or an employee of the health carrier advocating a particular method of treatment on behalf of an enrollee.

NEW SECTION. Section 3. Gag clauses and other action affecting medical communications prohibited -- exceptions. (1) A health carrier or managed care organization may not by an oral or written contract, by an oral or written direction or requirement, or by a financial inducement or penalty prohibit exdiscourage a provider from making a medical communication to an enrollee. A contract, direction, requirement, or financial inducement or penalty violating this subsection is void.

- (2) Subsection (1) does not apply to:
- (a) an oral or written contract, direction, requirement, or financial inducement or penalty prohibiting a provider from disclosing a trade secret, as defined in 30-14-402, to the same extent as other employees or contractors of the health carrier or managed care organization are prohibited from disclosing the trade secret;
- (b) an oral or written contract, direction, requirement, or financial inducement or penalty prohibiting a health care provider from referring an enrollee to another health plan or managed care organization in which the provider making the referral has a direct financial interest; and



1	(c) the terms of an oral or written contract mutually agreed upon by a health carrier or managed
2	care organization and a provider requiring the provider to participate in and cooperate with all programs,
3	policies, and procedures implemented by the health carrier or managed care organization to ensure, review,
4	or improve the quality of health care.
5	
6	NEW SECTION. Section 4. Sanction because of medical communication prohibited. A health
7	carrier or managed care organization may not take any of the following actions with regard to a health care
8	provider because the provider made a medical communication to an enrollee or to the guardian or lega
9	representative of the enrollee:
10	(1) terminate an agreement between the health carrier or managed care organization and the health
11	care provider to provide health care services;
12	(2) reduce compensation to the provider;
13	(3) demote the provider in regard to relative seniority within the managed care organization;
14	(4) transfer the provider to other duties within the managed care organization;
15	(5) deny the provider admitting or other privileges; or
16	(6) take other action against the provider in retaliation for a medical communication made by the
17	provider to an enrollee.
18	
19	NEW SECTION. Section 5. Civil penalty civil action for collection of penalty. (1) A health carrier
20	or a managed care organization violating [section 2 or 3 <u>3 OR 4</u>] is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed
21	\$5,000, AS PROVIDED IN 33-1-317, for each violation. Each day of violation constitutes a separate
22	violation for the purposes of this section.
23	(2) A health care provider making a medical communication to an enrolles in violation of a contract,
24	direction, requirement, or financial inducement or penalty prohibited by [section 2] may bring a civil action
25	to collect the penalty provided for in subsection (1) in the district court for the county in which the
26	communication was-made.
27	(3) A health care provider with whom a contract to provide health care services to enrollees is
28	terminated in violation of [section 3] may bring a civil action to collect the penalty provided for in



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(4)(2) In addition to other enforcement methods provided by law, the commissioner may bring a

subsection (1) in the district court for the county in which the provider resides.

civil action in the district court of the first judicial district to collect the civil penalty provided for in
subsection (1) from a person violating a provision of [sections 1-through 4 2 THROUGH 5]. An amount
collected by the commissioner pursuant to this section must be deposited in the general fund.

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<u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Section 6. Codification instruction.** [Sections 1 through 4 2 THROUGH 5] are intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 33, and the provisions of Title 33 apply to [sections 1 through 4 2 THROUGH 5].

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NEW SECTION. Section 7. Applicability. [This act] applies to contracts entered into or renewed after [the effective date of this act] between a health care provider and a health carrier or managed care organization.

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CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

on House Bill 27 Report No. 1, April 11, 1997

Page 1 of 1

Mr. Speaker and Mr. President:

We, your Conference Committee met and considered House Bill 27 (reference copy -- salmon) and recommend that House Bill 27 be amended as follows:

1. Page 3, line 21. Following: "making"

Insert: "or interfere with a provider making"

And this Conference Committee report be adopted.

For the House:

For the Senate:

Representative Bergman, Chair

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Representative Sands

TOWN.

Senator Benediet, Chair

Senator Christiaens

ADOPT

CCR#1 HB 27 AC HB 27-1

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REJECT

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55th Legislature HB0027.04

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9	IS SUBJECT TO THE INSURANCE LAWS AND RULES OF THIS STATE AND THAT CONTRACTS, OFFERS
10	TO CONTRACT, OR ENTERS INTO AN AGREEMENT to provide, deliver, arrange for, pay for, or reimburse
11	ANY OF the costs of a health care service to an enrollee SERVICES. THE TERM INCLUDES A DISABILITY
12	INSURER, HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATION, OR A HEALTH SERVICE CORPORATION OR OTHER
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15	entered into, offered, or issued by a health carrier to provide, deliver, arrange for, pay for, or reimburse
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HB 27

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