

# SAMLN19 Legislative Update 16 4-15-19 5:00 PM

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Hi SAMLN19 members!

Quick Update on happenings on Legislative Day 79 (4-15-19) ...

Mid afternoon, after several failed attempts and hard to listen to debate, the Senate passed [HB 658 \(Buttrey\)](#) Generally revised healthcare laws and permanently expand Medicaid, on 2nd Reading. It is still possible the Senate could kill HB 658 once again on 3rd reading tomorrow but that seems unlikely. In short, the fix for bringing the session big issues to an end is likely in. Once passed, the Senate returns the bill to the House with amendments that could well mean a conference committee to decide the final version of what Medicaid expansion will look like, and what other items will be incorporated into the bill under consideration of the conference committee. If so, no telling for sure what will come next.

Also, through the weekend and continuing today, in concert with the Montana School Boards Association, Montana Federation of Public Employees, Montana Association of School Business Officials, Montana Quality Education Coalition, and SAM, we have opened up negotiations with the governor's office and Democratic and Republican legislators with interest in preschool, to see if there might be a preschool compromise somewhere in the mess [HB 755 \(Moore\)](#) Generally revise pre-kindergarten laws (creates privatization with public funds), made of the whole preschool issue. It could well happen, or then again maybe not. We may not end up with a say in how this ends up, but we are doing our best to promote what we know our SAM membership can stomach for creating preschool for our youngest students in such a manner that gives our public schools the ability to implement the voluntary program for their community. More to come on this...

Have a great evening!

Kirk