

WINTER 2026  
ASCLS - MT

# NEWSLETTER



## ASCLS-MT Letter from the President

By Anne Tate, ASCLS-MT President

### **This Is Our Moment: Standing Up for Your Profession**

As winter loosens its grip and spring arrives earlier than expected across Montana, our profession enters a season of renewed momentum. For laboratory professionals, this is a time not only for networking and continuing education, but also for advocacy. The laboratory community is at a critical inflection point—and this is the moment to step forward.

The Montana ASCLS Chapter believes strongly that advocacy creates momentum. It raises awareness, informs policy, and leads to meaningful, lasting and durable change. For this reason, we are committed to offering opportunities to equip and engage our members to take an active role in advancing the profession. Advocacy is not separate from professional growth; it is a responsibility that strengthens both the individual and the profession.

This year is particularly significant for the laboratory industry. In 2026, laboratories face potential reimbursement cuts affecting more than 800 clinical laboratory tests. These cuts threaten the financial stability of laboratories nationwide and risk limiting patient access to timely, high-quality diagnostic testing. What is at stake is not only reimbursement policy, but the long-term sustainability of the laboratory services that support patient care every day.

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The passage of the **RESULTS Act (H.R. 5269)** to replace the deeply flawed **PAMA Act of 2014** is a top priority for ASCLS and the broader laboratory community. Achieving fair and equitable reimbursement will require coordinated advocacy across laboratories, professional societies, healthcare partners, and legislators. This effort cannot be carried out by a few voices alone—it will require sustained engagement from all of us.

Montana ASCLS recently reached an important milestone through direct advocacy with Montana lawmakers in Washington, D.C. **Senator Steve Daines, Montana**, has agreed to sign on as a sponsor of the RESULTS Act—an important win for Montana's laboratory professionals and a clear example of how advocacy produces results when we meet them and engage them in conversations regarding the laboratory. In the months ahead, Montana ASCLS will ask members to participate in advocacy efforts, including calls to action, educational outreach, and opportunities to communicate directly with elected officials. These efforts are timely and purposeful. When laboratory professionals engage, policymakers take notice.

We encourage you to support advocacy through these actions:

1. Visit [StopLabCuts.org](https://StopLabCuts.org) to stay informed and take action to sign onto > 160,000 interested citizens that support this bill.
2. Attend the ASCLS Montana Spring Meeting, May 7–9, for education, networking, and advocacy.
3. Track the progress of the **RESULTS Act** as it moves through the legislative process.

This is our moment. Let us meet it—together.

Note:

1. Results Act Link - [Text - S.2761 - 119th Congress \(2025-2026\): RESULTS Act | Congress.gov | Library of Congress](#)
2. PAMA Act of 2014 – the actual text of the law - [PUBL093.PS](#)
3. [Stoplabcuts.org](https://Stoplabcuts.org) - [StopLabCuts.org](https://StopLabCuts.org).
4. [Senator Steve Daines - Home - Senator Steve Daines](#)

Anne Tate, President, ASCLS-MT





## Regulatory Update/MT PAC

### Laboratory Reimbursement at a Crossroads: Why the RESULTS Act Must Pass in 2026

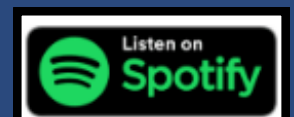
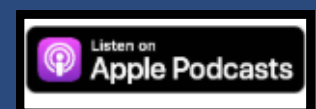
The viability of the laboratory profession depends on fair and equitable reimbursement for the testing performed every day in support of patient care. After years of instability, meaningful reform is within reach—but only if action is taken.

Congress has delayed implementation of the Protecting Access to Medicare Act (PAMA) of 2014 laboratory payment cuts for the sixth time, postponing them until January 1, 2027. This temporary delay was welcome news for laboratories and healthcare facilities nationwide, but it does not resolve the underlying flaws in the PAMA framework.

Had PAMA gone into effect in 2026, Medicare payment reductions of up to 15% would have applied to more than 800 clinical laboratory tests. These cuts would have affected laboratories of all sizes and settings, regardless of geography or patient population. Such across-the-board reductions threaten laboratory sustainability and risk limiting patient access to essential diagnostic services.

To stabilize the laboratory reimbursement system, current proposals under the RESULTS Act would freeze laboratory rates at 2025 levels and cancel the pending PAMA cuts scheduled for 2026, 2027, and 2028.

Under this approach, a revised reimbursement methodology would be fully implemented by 2029, providing laboratories with predictability and long-term stability.



ST. LOUIS - 2026

JOINT ANNUAL MEETING

JAM



ASCLS-MT  
Joint Annual Meeting  
(JAM)  
Save the Date!

June 28<sup>th</sup> - July 2<sup>nd</sup>

 Meta

 Instagram

- Do you connect with us through ASCLS Connect Community?
- Do you connect with us on our website? [www.ascls-mt.org](http://www.ascls-mt.org)

## Know the Facts: PAMA vs. the RESULTS Act

### Rate Setting

PAMA: Rates are based on approximately 1% of laboratory data, disproportionately reflecting large national laboratories.

RESULTS Act: Requires an independent data collection process that reflects a broad range of laboratory types, including hospital, independent, and rural laboratories.

### Reimbursement Limits

PAMA: Allows payment cuts of up to 15% annually.

RESULTS Act: Limits reductions to a maximum of 5% every four years.

### Reporting Requirements

PAMA: Imposes complex and burdensome reporting requirements for private payer data.

RESULTS Act: Streamlines reporting by limiting the scope of required private payer data.

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# RESULTS ACT

Laboratory reimbursement reform is not optional—it is critical. Organizations including ASCLS and the American Clinical Laboratory Association (ACLA) are actively advocating for passage of the RESULTS Act before the end of 2026 to permanently prevent the implementation of PAMA's flawed payment structure.

Leaders across the laboratory profession are calling for broad engagement to ensure policymakers understand the real-world consequences of reimbursement instability. Advocacy from laboratories, professionals, and healthcare partners is critical to securing a sustainable payment system. Now is the time to get involved. Staying informed, supporting advocacy efforts, and engaging with lawmakers will help ensure the RESULTS Act crosses the finish line.

Anne Tate, ASCLS-MT President

## ASCLS-MT Open Board Nominations 2026

Self-nominate or recommend a role to your peer!

- President-elect
- Secretary
- Awards and Scholarships
- Nominations
- Board of Directors
- Finance and Audit

# ASCLS Montana Wage and Satisfaction Survey 2025



ASCLS Montana is pleased to announce the release of the second annual Wage and Satisfaction Survey, available to laboratories across Montana and interested colleagues nationwide.

This survey offers Montana health systems and clinical labs up-to-date information on compensation, job satisfaction, and overall trends in the laboratory profession. ASCLS Montana remains committed to delivering meaningful, data-driven intelligence that supports workforce planning, professional development, and effective advocacy to ensure the long-term sustainability of laboratory services throughout the state.

The 2025 survey includes responses from 81 laboratory professionals representing more than 30 medical laboratories across Montana. Results from the 2025 survey are compared with 2024 data to identify emerging trends, establish a growing baseline, and align Montana-specific findings with other key industry workforce surveys. These comparisons are intended to support improved laboratory operations, recruitment and retention strategies, and workplace conditions.

Access the 2025 Wage and Satisfaction Survey results here:

## ***Notification of proposed ASCLS-MT Bylaws amendments coming to the Annual Business Meeting, May 7, 2026***

Mark your calendars for the Annual (Membership) Business meeting during the spring conference (May 7-9, 2026) at Fairmont Hot Springs. The Annual Business meeting on Thursday, May 7, is your chance as a member of ASCLS-Montana to learn more about what your state society is doing for you as well as making your voice heard on topics affecting you.

At the meeting, you will review and vote on the budget for the coming fiscal year, 2026-2027; vote for delegates to represent you at the ASCLS House of Delegates on July 2, 2026; and you will also vote on three proposed amendments to the ASCLS-Montana Bylaws. The proposed amendments deal with our method of voting for elective leadership positions in our Montana Society. Currently, we vote electronically prior to the meeting, then at the meeting, we ask for any additional nominations from the floor and allow a second vote. This is not an acceptable practice as there is no way to know if an individual's vote is counted twice. The first two proposed amendments remove the option for nominations from the floor, making the entire process electronic (also in line with the national organization). The third amendment clarifies the process of electing members to the Nominations Committee. Our bylaws state that this is done at the annual business meeting, however we have included nominations in the electronic balloting prior to the annual meeting along with the other elective leadership positions for several years, so the amendment clarifies the process currently in use (removing election at the annual meeting).

## ***Amendment #1: (strikeout phrasing replaced by green font phrasing)- Holly Weinberg, ASLCS-Montana Bylaws Chair***



### ARTICLE V – Officers and Their Duties

#### Section 3 – Elections.

Election of the Officers and Directors-at-Large shall be held annually. The official list of candidates for each office shall be presented at the Annual Meeting. **shall be published to the members at least 30 days prior to the annual meeting.** Additional nominations for each position may be made from the floor. Elections shall be conducted as specified in Article VII: **the SOP**

**Amendment #2:** (strikeout phrasing replaced by green font phrasing)

### ARTICLE VII – Elections

#### Section 1 – Nominations.

At the Board of Directors meeting preceding the Annual Meeting, the Nominations Committee shall present a written report (ballot) to be reviewed for completeness by the Board of Directors, and which shall be entered into the minutes of that meeting.

Nominations may be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting of the Society. The individual who makes such a nomination must have received the approval of the Nominee prior to the Annual Meeting.

**The Nominations Committee shall be responsible for presenting to the membership nominations for those positions to be filled by election at least 30 days prior to the annual meeting.**

**Amendment #3:** (strike phrase stating this is done at the annual meeting)

### *Article VIII - Committees*

#### *Section 6 -- The Nominations Committee.*

The Nominations Committee shall consist of a minimum of two (2) Professional, Ascending Professional, or Emeritus members of the Society with at least one (1) year of membership in the Society. The members of this committee shall be elected ~~at the Annual Meeting of the Society by membership~~ to serve a two (2) year term, with a minimum of one (1) member to be elected annually and a member may serve for two (2) consecutive terms. The immediate Past President will serve as liaison to this committee.

Please review this information and be prepared to discuss and vote on May 8, see you at Fairmont Hot Springs!

# ASCLS-MT Spring Meeting 2026

Let your worries evaporate and your ideas heat up. A unique blend of professional development and deep relaxation



**ASCLS-MT  
SPRING CONFERENCE**

Soak up the Science – Fairmont Hot Springs Resort  
May 7-9  
register @ [www.ascls-mt.org](http://www.ascls-mt.org)

**SOAK UP THE SCIENCE**  
REFRESH \* RENEW \* RECHARGE  
ASCLS MONTANA  
FAIRMONT HOT SPRINGS  
MAY 7-9, 2026

**KYLE RIDING**  
ASCLS PRESIDENT

**ANNE TATE**  
ASCLS-MT PRESIDENT

**TORIE POSER**  
GO RURAL

**JEWELL  
ZWEGMAN**  
BUSINESS OWNER

**DON'T MISS!**

- CE credits
- Laboratory Vendors
- Legislative Updates
- Hot Springs & Slide
- Social
- Networking

**MAY  
7-9  
FAIRMONT  
HOT  
SPRINGS**

**REGISTER NOW!**  
[www.ascls-mt.org](http://www.ascls-mt.org)



**APRIL 19-25, 2026**  
11th Annual  
**LAB WEEK RUN**  
Presented by the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science

Join in the fun  
Registration is now open!

