

- Until recently, Montana had weathered the financial crisis with minimal impact. Substantial oil and gas revenues along with a tradition of fiscal conservative policies had allowed Montana to avoid a budget deficit for the coming fiscal year.
- However recent developments suggest that Montana's future could be as bleak as the rest of the country. Revenues through August for fiscal year 2010 are down \$43.2 million or 20.9% compared to the same period the year before. The legislature had developed its state budget on the assumption that revenues would drop only 1.9%.ⁱ As such, as elsewhere critical public services and jobs are now at risk.
- Even before these updated figures, the Senate had sought to prevent funding the voter approved Healthy Montana Kids program which would have affected 30,000 children from low to moderate income families and had tried to limit state contributions to public schools.ⁱⁱ

ⁱ Johnson, Terry W., "General Fund Revenue Update, Fiscal 2010." Revenue and Transportation Interim Committee /Legislative Finance Committee, September 1, 2009., p.1

ⁱⁱ Dennison, Mike, "Budget rifts need mending in final week." Missoulian, April 20, 2009.