

MINUTES

**MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
61st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Call to Order: Chairman Jon C. Sesso, on April 1, 2009 at 9:00
A.M., in Room 102 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Duane Ankney (R)
Rep. Dennis Getz (D)
Rep. Bill E. Glaser (R)
Rep. Ray Hawk (R)
Rep. Teresa K. Henry (D)
Rep. Cynthia Hiner (D)
Rep. Roy Hollandsworth (R)
Rep. Galen Hollenbaugh (D)
Rep. Llew Jones (R)
Rep. Dave Kasten (R)
Rep. Bill McChesney (D)
Rep. Walter McNutt (R)
Rep. Robert Mehlhoff (D)
Rep. Penny Morgan (R)
Rep. Bill Nooney (R)
Rep. Carolyn Pease-Lopez (D)
Rep. Don Roberts (R)
Rep. Cheryl Steenson (D)
Rep. Dan Villa (D)

Members Excused: Rep. Jon C. Sesso, Chairman (D)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Jon Moe, Legislative Branch
Samuel Speerschneider, Committee Secretary

Audio Committees: These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: SB 234, 3/30/2009

Executive Action: None

Chairman Sesso was not present so Vice Chairwoman Hiner served as Chair for the day.

00:00:04 Vice Chairwoman Hiner

HEARING ON SB 234**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:01:20 Sen. Kim Gillan (D), SD 24, opened the hearing on SB 234, Insurance coverage for autism.

[EXHIBIT \(aph72a01\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

00:07:15 Rep. Sonju, HD 7, Kalispell

00:09:10 Rep. Van Dyke, HD 49, Billings

00:14:25 Rep. French, HD 36, Sidney

00:15:15 Lorri Unumb, Senior Policy Analyst, Autism Speaks

[EXHIBIT \(aph72a02\)](#)

00:32:35 Sen. Roy Brown, SD 25, Billings

00:34:58 Laura Simonsen, mother

[EXHIBIT \(aph72a03\)](#)

00:42:53 Darcy McGovern, mother

00:45:36 Charlie Cote, mother

[EXHIBIT \(aph72a04\)](#)

00:52:38 Rep. McChesney, HD 40, Miles City

00:55:24 Amy Grmoljez, Attorney, Billings Clinic

00:59:10 Will Cote, father

01:01:42 Holly Porter, self

01:02:26 Beki Wald, parent

01:06:17 Michael Jordan, Hardin

01:08:38 Don Judge, Montana Nurses Association

01:13:27 Charlie Briggs, Vice President, Easter Seals

01:17:22 Beth Brenneman, Attorney, Disability Rights Montana

01:18:18 Melissa Berg, Glendive

01:18:36 Travis Hoffman, Montanas Independent Living Centers

01:19:45 Susan Dow, Developmental Disability Service Providers

01:20:12 Jan Cayhill, Executive Director, Developmental Disability Services

Opponents' Testimony:

01:21:03 Chelsea Fagan, Chamber of Commerce

[EXHIBIT \(aph72a05\)](#)

01:28:59 Bob Robinson, CEO, Montana Unified School Trust

[EXHIBIT \(aph72a06\)](#)

01:36:55 Susan Witte, Vice President, Allegiance Life and Health Insurance

[EXHIBIT \(aph72a07\)](#)

01:41:36 Tanya Ask, New West Health Services

01:48:36 Dennis Lopach, America's Health Insurance Plans

[EXHIBIT \(aph72a08\)](#)

01:53:49 Frank Cote, Senior Director of Governmental Relations, Blue Cross Blue Shield

[EXHIBIT \(aph72a09\)](#)

01:58:48 Don Allen, National Association of Insurers and Financial Advisors

02:04:00 Jason Todhunter, Montana Logging Association

02:04:45 Riley Johnson, National Federation of Business

Informational Testimony:

02:05:40 Connie Welsh, Health Care and Benefits Division, Department of Administration

[EXHIBIT \(aph72a10\)](#)

02:09:34 Frank Pododnik, Office of Public Instruction

02:09:59 Jeff Stern, Developmental Disabilities Coordinator

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

02:13:27 Rep. Steenson

02:14:02 Sen. Gillan

02:17:31 Rep. Steenson

02:18:37 Mr. Robinson

02:18:52 Rep. Steenson

02:19:17 Mr. Robinson

02:19:29 Rep. Steenson

02:20:26 Ms. Unumb

02:20:58 Rep. Steenson

02:21:34 Ms. Unumb

02:22:33 Rep. Roberts

02:22:42 Ms. Unumb

02:22:57 Rep. Mehlhoff

02:23:47 Ms. Unumb

Closing by Sponsor:

02:25:03 Sen. Gillan

ADJOURNMENT

02:28:05 Adjournment: 11:30 A.M.

Samuel Speerschneider, Secretary

SS

Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT ([aph72aad.pdf](#))