

Bill: HB-2: General Appropriations Act 2021-01-22 08:00 AM - (H) JAS on Judicial Branch, Law Enforcement, and Justice

Position: Opponent

Representing an Entity/Another Person: No

Organization: N/A

Name: Mayson Simmons

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City, State: Polson

Written Statement: I believe in Gayle Butler and her programs. She is a jewel and shining star in DOC. She walks her talk. However the programs are not equal for women. In federal law, the same services have to be offered to the women's lacrosse team as the men's football. This point was told to me by the discrimination lawyer who handled my HRB case. Look at the slides of the programs offered for men and women. Men Ranch Women Dogs Men Auto Mech Women Tshirts Men Welding Women Dogs Men Wood Program Women Tshirts They have spent thousands in programs for cert programs for men and women? Where is it? Look specifically at the Garden at MWP. It's a hobby but men AG is a career. What's the message we are sending women? Your work isn't valued as much as a man. The AG researches are finding Micro farms are being started by more women than men. The garden area at MWP has the ability to be a major part of Billings if it was mgt correctly. They could be a farmers market selling many products as well as having hobby items

Bill: HB-2: General Appropriations Act 2021-01-25 09:00 AM - (H) JAS on Judicial Branch, Law Enforcement, and Justice

Position: Informational Witness

Representing an Entity/Another Person: Yes

Organization: Indian People's Action

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City, State: Billings

Written Statement: Testimony I submitted earlier but it disappeared and I'm not able to comment today

My child got in trouble as a youth – charged as an “accessory” to a crime nobody was every charged with.

He is 30 now and STILL INVOLVED with the system. We've paid over \$25,000 in bail this year alone because he's an alcoholic and keeps getting arrested for technical violations (refusing to follow orders at pre-release, drinking). He also pays monthly for breathalyzers, ankle bracelets and whatever else - but NOBODY has ever tried to help him. They just try to put him in a cage with people who bashed his head in last time he spent time around them (in jail).

The bail is usually \$20,000. Sometimes \$50,000. We NEVER get it back when he shows up though I remember years when we used to get our money back when we made our court appearance. Now it's just give my retirement away so my alcoholic son doesn't get his head bashed in in jail. Again.

He's trying to quit. Going to counseling and treatment at the level the professionals recommend, but he still can't seem to stop. He needs 60 - 90 days inpatient to think about it and get his brain back - it's poisoned with alcohol, but alas, he's probably just going to go to prison and be further damaged.

Our family has been trashed by Justice in Montana. The last time he went to prison We PAID for everything while he beaded and hung out with the boys and took long naps, his family was out here busting a hump. We got punished worse than him!

Medical treatment is a joke. Mental Health treatment a joke. Staff oppress at every opportunity. Religious freedom isn't free for Native People in the system. Nothing is working as it was intended and a HUGE overhaul is needed. I am willing to help.

How often are helpful ventures helpful - if folks haven't talked to the people who need help? Ever? Just traumatize them further - cages, write ups, strait jackets, hog tying hands to feet. Then get out, no help, no support, FELON, minimum wage job, nobody will rent to you. Pre-release does NOTHING to help and everything to hinder. It's insane!

We are creating poverty and calling it justice.

Testimony I submitted to comment tomorrow. May change depending on topic of meeting - but I have comments about everything DOC after doing my work for so long. What horrors. We have criminals running the criminal justice system.

I have many comments from both personal experience and from working with people in Montana pre-release programs. DOC is crooked. Their programs are crap and only offered to a few. \$100 a year for full time work is BULLSHIT - and it sickens me that they act like it's a big, nice deal. What would YOU do with \$100? If your partner was in prison and you were busting a hump with kids, a job, outrageous prison phone call fees, buying the person in prison everything they need. Also, I've been asking for years for reports from June Ellstad's contract with DOC as she was supposedly working with Native People in Montana and Native people don't know anything about her. I think she got paid to do nothing. Also, I put in to comment today as I hear all the flowery talk about programs but of the hundreds of folks I've worked with who were in DOC custody, NONE got services, training or help. They got traumatized, oppressed and shafted. My son was terrified of being in public after he go out - and now he's worse than when he went in! And, 10 years later DOC is still taking from my family. I worked with one lady who was DYING from lung cancer. She was in Passages. When she was on her DEATH BED they wouldn't let her young daughters see her - for 'safety reasons" . How dangerous was she DYING??? I called Jan Beggar and was able to get her kids in - but dying people shouldn't have to have that stress. The prison is full of people who need help but only get traumatized. Surely we can do better.

DOC rules as related to pre-release are oppressive and do more harm than good. The 14-minute a day eyes on rule creates great stress for people as the public transportation in Billings is very poor. I know women who've walked miles in the cold, lost jobs, lost hope – just to check in. With our technology today that's totally unnecessary.

Pre-release programs are notoriously oppressive in Montana when they could be helping folks. We need people who have been in the system to help – not upper middle class white people who are clueless to the entire thing.

Also, anybody who can sentence a person to jail needs to sit in jail for a week as part of their training. If you've never been there you can't know the horror you are sentencing people to – nor the sentence you are giving their law abiding family members.

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Organization: N/A

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City, State: Billings

Written Statement: RE: HB 168

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, January 21, 2021

My name is Analicia Pianca and I'm a public defender in Billings, Montana. I'm also a member of AFSCME Council 9. I am here to ask you to oppose HB 168 and any other attacks on the freedom of public service workers to have an effective voice to advocate for the vital public services all Montanans rely on.

Public service work is a calling, and I am proud that every day I go to work and make Montana a better place to live.

Ensuring that all Montanans have equal access to our justice system and that they receive their constitutionally guaranteed right to representation is a privilege, and I couldn't be prouder of the work my colleagues and I do.

I'm sure you all feel a similar sense of pride serving as legislators. And I know that other public service workers feel the same way I do.

When the public employees like us are able to effectively stand with each other, and for our communities, our state is better for it. The vital services we provide are better for it, and the public is better off for it.

Public defenders like me negotiate for more manageable caseload, so everyone can have quality representation before our legal system, Snowplow drivers negotiate for safety standards so they can keep the roads clear and make it home to their families, nurses negotiate for better patient to staff ratios so they can provide quality care. And teachers negotiate for a better class sizes so the kids who need extra help can get the attention they deserve.

Members of the committee, I urge you to vote against HB 168. Public employees are the backbone of Montana. Please don't take away our freedom to stand for the vital services we provide our state.

Sincerely,

/s/ Analicia T. Pianca

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