

From: [Carlson, Amy](#)
To: [LEG LFD MGMT](#)
Subject: FW: DPHHS Program 1
Date: Wednesday, September 13, 2017 10:31:30 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: Montana's Employment Opportunities Marcy Roberts [<mailto:meomt17@outlook.com>]
Sent: Sunday, September 10, 2017 10:56 AM
To: Carlson, Amy
Subject: DPHHS Program 1

As I sit here pondering all of the proposed budget cuts and wondering when my husband will return home from the fire on Rice Ridge in Seeley Lake, I can't help but have a heavy heart for the state of Montana, my home state and my livelihood. My husband is a lifelong logger and is shut out of the woods and I am a Community Rehab Provider for individuals with disabilities in the state of Montana as well as an EE provider and as well as Medicaid waiver. When I woke up yesterday I read all 111 pages of DPHHS proposed cuts and my heart broke not only for my business of 14 years and the individuals I hire to provide them employment and wages in their home town but the many clients that I serve who's services are on the chopping block. This isn't about me or you this is about what is right for people with disabilities in employment. I have worked in the mental health system for 13 years as a vocational specialist and volunteer coordinator and the past 13 years I have owned my own business in the Flathead serving all people with disabilities gain and maintain employment. Hiring people with disabilities in Montana has been an ongoing struggle and I have spent 26 years advocating, hiring, assisting and going above and beyond to make others aware of the amazing opportunities of hiring individuals with disabilities. I have served on many boards, as well as spend my own time educating others about people. I have raised my kids in Montana who are now adults with great respect for people with disabilities and make a difference even while not working in the field. My employment has allowed them to see "the good" and "be the good".

Montanans with disabilities deserve more than what these proposed cuts reflect. They deserve to have every opportunity to thrive and survive in our workforce.

I am a business owner as stated, the approximate 42% cut to my rates will put me out of business due to cost of employees, insurances, overhead of my office etc. I am in the process of selling my office building and renting a small space so that I may be able to continue to serve on tight budget. I will also have to lay off my employees who make \$20 and \$15 an hour as their cost in payroll will not allow me to pay my overhead with the \$37 and \$21 proposed payments. I am insured with professional insurances and I am a tax payer. These proposed cuts to CRP in Program 1 are beyond believable.

Voc Rehab has not had new referrals coming out of their agency since March 2017. My caseload continues to decline as new clients are not available and people are becoming employed with my supports and closing successfully as a gainfully employed person with a disability. Now is the time to move on employment as there is a shortage of workers and for the first time in my 26 years I see that people with disabilities, felons and aging workers are considered a viable workforce. These proposed cuts will not allow us to move forward. All of the work that I and many others in the state will be brushed aside and people with disabilities will return home where they used to sit and live off the system. They will no longer be a tax payer without the supports necessary for them to successfully and fully complete their jobs.

Many of the folks I serve are successful because of their perseverance and the supports they are afforded to become citizens in our community.

How did we get her? Where are we going? PLEASE I beg you to NOT cut services to Program 1, Montanans in employment with disabilities. We have worked too hard for too long to go back in time. PLEASE I beg of you to consider other areas to skim some of the dollars from and salvage the livelihood of individuals with disabilities.

As I write this, my husband is kicked out of the woods as an owner/operator of a logging company and working on the Rice Ridge Fire, this costing 34 million dollars and I sit here writing to you begging for change for the good. The overspending of the state is unacceptable behavior for anyone and please don't penalize people with Disabilities.

Always remember, we will ALL become a person with a disability as we age. We lose our sight, our hearing and have ailments that are disabling. We are all ONE slip away from a fall and ONE accident away from acquiring a disability. Would you want to have the services as they are or would you like the services as presented, deep cuts and discontinuation of programs. NO ONE is immune to disability and remember people with disabilities are the largest minority group with the least protection, services and abilities to be heard, served and treated with dignity and respect.

PLEASE leave Program 1 as a last resort to cuts and please reconsider the deep cuts proposed. People with disabilities in Montana deserve better than this. Kind regards, Marcy Roberts, a taxpayer, advocate and business owner in MT-406

Marcy R Roberts, BS
Montana's Employment Opportunities LLC
291 3rd Avenue EN
Kalispell Montana 59901
406-253-4133 Phone
406-752-3130 Fax

From: [Carlson, Amy](#)
To: [LEG LFD MGMT](#)
Subject: FW: "Please do not cut the Part C and FES programs from the DPHHS budget."
Date: Wednesday, September 13, 2017 10:31:52 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: William Oxenford [<mailto:williamoxenford@ymail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2017 10:24 AM
To: Carlson, Amy
Subject: "Please do not cut the Part C and FES programs from the DPHHS budget."

"Please do not cut the Part C and FES programs from the DPHHS budget."

My name is William Oxenford and I am a parent in Great Falls, MT. I appreciate your awareness in this matter and thank you for your time.

V/r,

William Oxenford

Sent from my iPhone

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From: Jack Scotson [mailto:jack59218@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2017 1:21 PM

To: Weiss, Rachel <RWeiss@mt.gov>

Subject: BOPP re: James Scotson 36240

Sept, 14, 2017

Ms. Weiss,

I am writing you out of concern over the BOPP's handling of my son's case. His name is James Scotson AO36240.

James was sentenced to 100 yrs plus 10 for weapon. The Judge ordered him to be eligible for parole at 17 1/2 years.

He went before the BOPP six years ago and despite having completed all required programs, groups and counseling he was given a 6 year flop. The reason stated was "He just had not served enough time". He again met the BOPP on June 29, 2017. He again presented with a clean record, all requirements met, a marketable job skill (diesel mechanic) and a transitional environment in place. The Adullam House was ready to help James make the transition back into society.

James has the support of his family and friends who stood ready to help his transition.

The BOPP again stated though he had met all the criteria for release they felt he needed to spend more time in prison.

When he asked the Board what must he do to be paroled the gentleman on the board stated, "He would be out if he hadn't committed his crime"

I would ask that you share this information with the Law and Justice Committee and the Legislative Finance Committee. It not only seems unfair that James be re sentenced by the BOPP it seems counter productive in terms of rehabilitation. It is also not cost effective to house an inmate who could, in reality be supporting himself and paying taxes rather than being a tax burden on Montana.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my request.

Respectfully

///Signed///

Jack Scotson



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF MEDICAL ASSISTANTS®

20 N. WACKER DR., STE. 1575
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60606

September 26, 2017

Members, Legislative Finance Committee

**RE: Medical Assisting Program
Great Falls College-Montana State University**

It has been brought to the attention of the American Association of Medical Assistants (AAMA) that the medical assisting program at Great Falls College-Montana State University is in jeopardy of being closed because of state budgetary matters. The AAMA expresses its grave concern over this possibility and strongly urges that the medical assisting program at Great Falls College continue to be funded.

The United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), projects that medical assisting will grow much faster than the average for all occupations through 2024. According to the BLS, this is also the case in Montana.

Medical assistants are the only allied health professionals educated and trained to work in ambulatory health care delivery settings such as clinics and medical offices. Because of the aging of the population and other factors, more health care is being provided on an outpatient basis. Reducing the pool of medical assistants by closing the program at Great Falls College would decrease the access to, and the quality of, outpatient health care services in Montana.

The impact of closing the medical assisting program at Great Falls College would be especially impactful because there are only two (2) medical assisting programs in Montana that are accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP).

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact me with any questions.

Donald A. Balasa, JD, MBA
AAMA CEO and Legal Counsel
dbalasa@aama-ntl.org



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From: Nichols, Darlene
To: [Lindsay, Susie](#)
Subject: MA program at Great Falls College-MSU
Date: Wednesday, September 27, 2017 8:50:25 AM

Dear Ms. Lindsay,

I am writing to you regarding the possibility of the MA program at Great Falls College-MSU being cut. I am a previous graduate of the program, 2011, in fact the class that got the program accredited with the American Association of Medical Assistants.

Medical Assistants are an invaluable part the healthcare team. In the clinical area of my office at Benefis Orthopedics Associates, we have one RN, three LPN's, and five CMAs (Certified Medical Assistants). Three of these CMAs, including myself, graduated from this great program. My employer utilizes hiring graduates from the program because they understand the high quality education the students have received.

Please don't allow this program to be cut. It would be a terrible loss to health care in our community.

Thank you for your time.

J. Darlene Nichols, CMA (AAMA)

Benefis Orthopedics Associates

Secretary, Montana Society of Medical Assistants (MT-SMA)

President, Great Falls Chapter, MT-SMA



Beaverhead County GIS Department
2 South Pacific Street, CL #7
Dillon, Montana 59725
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smarsh@beaverheadcounty.org

Legislative Finance Committee
Helena, MT 59620-0801

Honorable Members of the Legislative Finance Committee,

I am writing to request that you exempt the State Library Commission from the ten percent budget cut that you are requesting from all state agencies. The State Library was previously targeted in Senate Bill 261 and has already suffered a thirty-two percent cut that other agencies did not experience.

The State Library's general fund budget is only 0.2 percent of the general fund and exempting them from the proposed new round of cuts does not create a noticeable burden on the remaining agencies.

The Senate Bill 261 budget cuts have already eliminated the geographic information staff's ability to maintain some of the layers of the state's spatial data infrastructure, and have probably eliminated plans to modernize the Montana Cadastral web site that so many people depend on for information about real estate in Montana.

I am the Geographic Coordinator for Beaverhead County and as such I am constantly updating our counties Enhanced 9-1-1 system. I use information obtained from the State Library almost daily to maintain and update our 9-1-1 data. This data is extremely important for the safety and well-being of not only the citizens of our county but also our volunteer first responders.

Thank you for your consideration of this extremely important subject.

Sincerely yours,

Scott Marsh

Scott Marsh
GIS Coordinator
Beaverhead County, Montana

From: sera white
To: [Lindsay, Susie](#)
Subject: Budget Cuts
Date: Friday, September 29, 2017 12:01:17 PM

Sera White
314 6th St
Wallace, ID, 83873

September 29, 2017

Dear Members of the Legislative Finance Committee,

I am writing to request that you exempt the State Library Commission from the ten percent budget cut that you are requesting from all state agencies. The State Library was previously targeted in Senate Bill 261 and has already suffered a thirty-two percent cut that other agencies did not experience.

I own a startup tech company that is experiencing strong growth. My business depends on accurate freely available geographic data. I've been impressed by Montana's Cadastral website. Montana has always been a leader in providing quality geographic data.

I may not be from Montana, but I want to point out that there are numerous small businesses in Montana that are reliant upon information provided by your State Library. Businesses like mine are growing at very rapid rates, are in high demand, and pay their employees good wages.

I am concerned about the budget cuts that have already been applied, and even more concerned to hear that there may be more. Please consider the consequences to your local business industry when you are making your decision.

Sincerely,
Sera White
CEO, Gravis Technologies, Inc.

From: Landenburger, Lisa
To: [Lindsay, Susie](#)
Subject: Montana State Library Budget Cuts
Date: Friday, September 29, 2017 1:01:35 PM

Honorable Members
Legislative Finance Committee
Helena, MT 59620-0801

Dear Members of the Legislative Finance Committee,

I am writing to request that you exempt the State Library Commission from the ten percent budget cut that you are requesting from all state agencies. The State Library was previously targeted in Senate Bill 261 and has already suffered a thirty-two percent cut that other agencies did not experience.

The State Library's general fund budget is only 0.2 percent of the general fund and exempting them from the proposed new round of cuts does not create a noticeable burden on the remaining agencies.

I am a Geographic Information Specialist (GIS) for the U.S. Geological Survey and a GIS contractor to the U.S. Forest Service. The GIS data that I obtain from the Montana State Library is absolutely critical for the scientific integrity of research conducted by these agencies. Any scientific research with a spatial component relies on accurate digital data provided by State Libraries across the country. The State library serves a critical need to all of these research efforts. A funding reduction of this magnitude will seriously hinder the science conducted by our Universities, State and Federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector. Please, for the sake of science, reconsider and exempt the State Library from the burden imposed by an additional ten percent budget cut.

Sincerely yours,

Lisa Landenburger
Grizzly Bear Database Coordinator, GYE
USGS, Northern Rocky Mountain Science Center
USFS, Region 1
Bozeman, MT
406-994-7430

From: [Carlson, Amy](#)
To: [Lindsay, Susie](#)
Subject: FW: Montana budget
Date: Friday, September 29, 2017 1:21:15 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: Sue Silverberg [<mailto:suebird.silverberg@gmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, September 29, 2017 1:16 PM
To: Carlson, Amy
Subject: Montana budget

I want to urge you to reject the proposed budget cuts. I believe as many Montanans do that we need to raise revenue in the state so that we can continue to fund human services and education at the appropriate levels. The proposed cuts will put our already most vulnerable community members at risk. Thanks for your work!!

Sue Silverberg
230 S. Davis St
Missoula 59801
406 523-9677

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Carlson, Amy](#)
To: [Triem, Joe](#); [Lindsay, Susie](#); [Holzer, Quinn](#)
Subject: FW: LFD Analysis of Proposed Spending Reductions Overview
Date: Monday, October 02, 2017 1:59:42 PM
Attachments: [Proposed State Budget Cut Summary.pdf](#)

Document

From: Eric Bryson [mailto:ebryson@mtcounties.org]
Sent: Monday, October 2, 2017 1:50 PM
To: Carlson, Amy
Cc: Blattie, Harold
Subject: LFD Analysis of Proposed Spending Reductions Overview

<http://leg.mt.gov/content/Publications/fiscal/interim/Oct-2017/Reductions-Analysis.pdf>

Ms. Carlson:

Thank you and the Legislative Fiscal Division for the comprehensive analysis of the proposed cuts! It really helps to understand the potential consequences and technical/legal issues with the proposals as submitted.

We also undertook a quick analysis of the consequences to county government, albeit with much less detail than your work. While we came to many of the same conclusions regarding potential cost shifts (where obvious, like fee increases), we also identifies several that weren't picked up in your report. Many of the proposed reductions in the Department of Corrections will absolutely result in longer delays in case processing, especially for those waiting in county jails for screening and pre-sentence investigations. I attach our simple analysis for your information, and thanks again for your excellent work!

Sincerely,

Eric

Eric Bryson
Montana Association of Counties

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Montana Association of Counties

2715A Skyway Drive
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Phone: (406) 449-4360
Fax: (406) 442-5238

Memo

Please find attached a summary of the State Agency budget cuts submitted to the Governor's Office. The summary was taken from the publicly available documents at <http://balancedbudget.mt.gov/>.

While many of the proposed budget reductions will have significant impacts on residents in each of our counties, this review was completed with an emphasis on direct fiscal impacts to County operations. As such, those reductions that have an actual and direct fiscal impact have been highlighted. Proposed cuts that are unclear or that may have a direct impact to local communities (closure of office, for example), are found in green.

Finally, please note that the fiscal impacts, both short term and long term, of the proposed budget cuts cannot be determined with any degree of certainty at this point. Many of the proposed cuts are a shift in funding sources, which are proposed to be made up with additional fees at a later point. Other cuts have direct and indirect impacts to services provided by some counties and not others (like grant reductions in public health, or operational changes that impact felons in county jails). It is also true that the long-term consequence of other funding reductions will have a direct impact on demand for local services, like health or criminal justice functions, but are currently un-quantifiable. This is simply a list of the proposed cuts in a summarized form.

Notes on budget reductions

1. Administration:

- a. Shifting people from General Fund to Director's Office Internal Service Fund (ISF). .5 Chief Labor Negotiator, .5 Administrative Assistant, and .5 Financial Quality Analyst will result in a decreased general fund obligation of \$147,397 in FY 18.
- b. In FY 19, .75FTR Labor Relations Specialist will be shifted to Director's Office ISF, saving \$206,781 for FY 19
 - i. Impact as proposed will be to ask for a "significant rate increase" for the 2021 biennium to pay for the cost shifted positions.
- c. Reduced Labor Management Training from \$75,000 to \$10,000 for the biennium.
 - i. Training was aimed at improving management skills and labor management committees.
- d. Transfer 5 Local Government Services staff from general fund to LGS Enterprise Fund for the 2019 biennium. Saves \$508,117 over the biennium.
 - i. **"At the end of the 2019 biennium, the Department will evaluate the need for charging filing fees for financial reports and audits of local government entities as outlined in 2-7-514 MCA". Fees for filing financial reports and audits would have to cover the \$508,117 cost over a biennium?**
- e. Public Safety Communications Service Bureau general fund cost will be shifted within the State Information Technology Services Division to the Internal Service Fund for the 2019 biennium. Saving \$85,886 for the biennium.
- f. Keep Human Resource Specialist (vacant) position vacant over the biennium. Charge or code existing staff/work to the Professional Development Center as a cost shift, and review internal service rates (increase) for the 2021 biennium. Total savings of \$323,373 over the biennium.
- g. 10% reduction to the Montana Tax Appeal Board. Saves \$122,778 over the biennium.
 - i. **Impact as proposed will likely be a delay in processing county tax appeals and STAB referrals.**
 - ii. **County Tax Appeal board funding for secretarial duties will discontinue, shifting the financial cost to counties**
 - iii. **Training, if done, will be web based**
- h. TOTAL PROPOSED REDUCTIONS EQUAL \$1,459,332

2. Commerce:

- a. Eliminate \$100,000 annually from the Manufacturing Extension Line Item (\$200,000 for the biennium)
- b. Eliminate \$359,897 from the Small Business Innovation Research or Small Business Technology Transfer programs. Grants are approximately \$30,000, so approximately 12 interested companies won't get any funding.
- c. Reduce Big Sky Trust Fund annual allocation by half, saving \$200,000 for the biennium.
- d. Reduce Brownfield Spill Grants by \$10,000 over the biennium. **It appears this removes a project funded by the legislature for a spill at the airport in Malta.**
- e. Reduce Community Technical Assistance Program funding by \$165,606 over the biennium. Appears to come from contracted services, so no actual staff reductions.*

3. Corrections:

- a. \$1,000,000 off the top for not hitting the 250 average daily count by January 1, 2018. Will be met by “not filling 8 positions and reductions in contract services” in the Director’s Office. But because the target won’t be hit, and a larger number than budgeted will be sitting in county jails, the net impact is unknown. Estimated to be a \$2,000,000 reduction to the general fund as presented.
 - i. **Of significance, those 250 offenders in County jails appear to be budgeted at \$76/day for a total allocation of \$6,935,000 per year. If they continue at 415 inmates (165 more than budgeted), that costs an additional \$4,577,100 annually. This proposed “general fund reduction” of \$2 million costs the general fund \$2.577 million in daily incarceration costs at county jails.**
- b. Reduce the number of radio batteries for probation/parole and correctional officers, saving \$50,000 over the biennium. The radios don’t work without batteries. “Depending on their location, the radio may be an officer’s only means of communication, so the radio’s failure has a potential safety impact.”
- c. \$250,061 over the biennium in deferred computer replacement. Will require an increase in computer funding in subsequent years.
- d. Place on hold the replacement of video cameras at MSP, deferring \$336,588 over the biennium. Camera’s will break and need to be replaced.
- e. **Reduce the contract rate for Missoula County at MASc to \$69.00/day. Projected to save \$1,463,664 over the biennium. MASc holds 141 offenders and reducing the amount may lead to cancellation of the contract. DOC has no place to put the 141 offenders. Appears to go from \$83/day for 141 offenders to \$69/day for 141 offenders.**
- f. Reduce new funding for DOC offenders under community supervision. Probation Officers would not be able to use intermediate sanctions (county jail beds as a sanction) or alternative placement options which, in the opinion of the Department of Corrections, “would hamper efforts to get the budgeted daily jail hold count down to 250 offenders.” See note above regarding the 250 offenders. This proposal indicates a savings of \$5,470,960 over the biennium.
 - i. **Taking away funding for intermediate sanctions (jail or otherwise) will likely result in additional requests for revocation. Once a Petition to Revoke is filed, the convicted felon on community supervision becomes a pretrial detainee and payment becomes the responsibility of the county. Cutting intermediate sanction funding will likely result more offenders in County jails, however the Department of Corrections won’t have to pay for incarceration while pending revocation and the subsequent sentencing.**
- g. Eliminate Nurse, Mental Health and Addiction Counseling payments to prerelease centers. “These services could be covered by Medicaid expansion for PRC inmates and are therefore no longer needed as a supplementary expenditure to PRC per diem rates.” Proposal indicates a savings of \$1,373,394 over the biennium.
- h. Eliminate 6 new FTE’s authorized by the 2017 Legislature to write presentence investigation reports. The projected savings of \$720,000 over the biennium would result in longer delays in completing pre-sentence investigations (SB 60 requires completion of PSI’s in 30 days).

- i. DOC reports that it currently takes, on average, 123 days from the time an offender pleads guilty to be sentenced, primarily due to the PSI process and program screening. **DOC does not pay for incarceration during this time.** The reduction of PSI writers means convicted felons will continue to sit in county jails at the county's expense.
- i. Reduction of "transitional assistance funding" by \$564,000 over the biennium. This funding provides assistance to offenders in secure care facilities who are being paroled but who need help transitioning into a community placement. Without the funding, they stay in secure care longer (costing more money).
- j. Reduce offender service contracted in PPD by 5%. Biennial savings of \$348,772. "This will impact community services available to offenders on supervision and could hinder reentry efforts and increase recidivism."
 - i. Increased recidivism generally means revocation, and revocation means the **Department doesn't pay for the cost of incarceration pending revocation and sentencing.**
- k. Decrease contracts for prerelease centers by 5%, reducing biennial expenditures by \$2,331,326. Reduced capacity in prerelease centers could reduce capacity. "This would increase the number of offenders on waiting lists for services, which would, in turn, increase the amount of time DOC offenders spend in county jails awaiting an opening".
 - i. **DOC does not pay for pretrial incarceration, like when a convicted felony offender is awaiting a pre-sentence investigation or screening for placement in a prerelease center before sentencing.**
- l. Decrease contracts for treatment by 5%. Biennial savings of \$1,872,344. "This would increase the number of offenders on waiting lists for services, which would, in turn, increase the amount of time DOC offenders spend in county jails awaiting an opening".
 - i. **DOC does not pay for pretrial incarceration, like when a convicted felony offender is awaiting a pre-sentence investigation or screening for placement in programming before sentencing. It is unclear if this reduction would impact sanctioned DOC offenders in county jails (DOC pays) or guilty felons awaiting sentencing (County pays).**
- m. Close boot camp and cancel project to transition it into a treatment facility, saving \$1,414,893 over the biennium. The 60-bed chemical dependency unit wouldn't operate, and since chemical dependency treatment is often required prior to being granted parole, inmates will spend more time in prison due to the inadequacy of treatment.
 - i. Additionally, convicted felons awaiting sentencing in County facilities would be waiting longer for sentencing in recommended for placement in a treatment facility (County pays).
- n. Close Lewistown Infirmary, projected to save \$3,153,447 over the biennium. The infirmary can handle 25 inmates in need of nursing home care (\$157/day in 2018).
- o. Reduce daily bed rate in Cascade and Dawson Counties to \$69. Projected to save \$911,974 over the biennium.
 - i. **The total savings will come directly from underfunding Dawson and Cascade Counties for services provided.**

- p. Make SB63 retroactive, allowing probationer serving deferred or suspended sentences to be released from supervision early. Projected savings over the biennium are estimated to be \$6,530,484. "By applying this law retroactively to low-risk offenders, DOC could potentially move additional offenders from prison to community supervision."
- q. Suspend option payments on Shelby prison, saving \$3,336,100 over the biennium. DOC indicates this might result in a breach of contract.
- r. Reduce Shelby contract by 2%, saving approximately \$566,090 over the biennium. DOC indicates this might result in a breach of contract.
- s. Reduce personnel services by leaving a vacant position open, projected to save \$94,800 over the biennium. Position impacts inmate welding certification training and prison canteen.
- t. Reduce operating expenditures for the welding program, projected to save \$92,810 over the biennium.
- u. Reduce by 10 the staff at Pine Hills, saving an estimated \$861,888 over the biennium. Will result in beds being left empty at Pine Hills while the state needs more placement options to serve male offenders across the state.
 - i. Will likely result in longer stays in county facilities for those awaiting secure placement, including revocations and guilty felony offenders funded entirely by the County.
- v. Reduce the Youth Placement Budget by \$484,000 over the biennium. Will result in less access to services for adjudicated youth committed to the department of corrections (group home, mental health, chemical dependency, sex offender therapy).
- w. Close Youth Transition Center in Great Falls, saving an estimated \$1,191,616 over the biennium. Youth Transition Center provides housing/transition services for adolescent males that have failed in less structured/supervised placements, and is the only facility taking sex offenders transitioning from Pine Hills. Closure will eliminate 11 jobs.
- x. Youth Transition Center operating expense reduction based on closure would result in an additional \$176,795 savings over the biennium.
- y. Reduce "outside medical costs" to save a projected \$4,436,926 over the biennium. It appears the Department would minimize the use of outside clinicians conducting psychological evaluations ordered by Board of Pardons and instead require existing staff to perform evals. Additionally, the department would require over the counter (OTC) medications to be ordered through the prison canteen and paid for by inmates rather than DOC. Also implement an inmate co pay system for medical services.
- z. Reduce travel and per diem for Parole Board, saving an estimated \$99,666 over the biennium. Hold meetings with VisionNet.
- aa. Do not fill a vacant analyst position at the BOPP, saving an estimated \$97,246 over the biennium.

4. Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

- a. Reduce contracted services in Water Quality, to include data collection, monitoring, technical assistance, and training. Projected to save \$229,934 over the biennium.
- b. Eliminate Enforcement Division Administrator position and assume responsibilities among existing staff. Results in a projected savings of \$241,000 over the biennium.

- c. Eliminate general fund funding from the State Recycle Program and instead use solid waste fees. Resulting in a general fund reduction of \$140,000 over the biennium. **May trigger an increase in solid waste fees paid to the Department.**
- d. Reduce general fund subsidy from Opencut Mine Permitting and reduce one FTE in the division; eliminate fiscal position in the Air, Energy, and Mining Division; eliminate Administrative Support position in Air Quality Bureau; reduce County Air Quality Grants by 10%. Cumulative projected savings of \$428,001 over the biennium.
 - i. **Butte-Silver Bow, Cascade, Flathead, Lewis and Clark, Lincoln, Missoula, Ravalli, and Yellowstone Counties will be impacted by reductions in grant support to assist with burning control, road dust control, ambient monitoring, and technical support.**

5. Governor's Office

- a. Office of Economic Development personnel services reduction and Governor's Office, resulting in a savings of \$490,954 over the biennium.
- b. Operations budget reduction of \$62,834 over the biennium (Governor's Office and Office of Economic Development).
- c. Executive Residence reduction in operating expense of \$33,407 over the biennium.
- d. Air Transportation maintenance operating budget reduction of \$62,771 over the biennium.
- e. Office of Budget and Program Planning proposes \$119,000 in reductions over the biennium. Consultant services, replacement computers, travel expenses; and paper, minor equipment and office supplies.
- f. Personnel reduction in Governor's Office of \$295,840 over the biennium.
- g. Allocate cost of econometric data subscription to Legislative Fiscal Division, Department of Commerce, and Department of Labor and Industry, saving OBPP \$43,921 over the biennium. **This is a savings to OBPP, but not a reduction in utilization. And the other departments would be charged for their share of the contract, presumably paid by general fund?**
- h. Reduction in the Office of Indian Affairs personnel budget of \$37,966 over the biennium.
- i. Reduce the Lt. Governor's budget by \$66,727 over the biennium.
- j. Board of Visitors paralegal position changed from .75 to .5 FTE (Montana State Hospital) and eliminate .5 FTE Mental Health Ombudsman located in Helena, for a total estimated savings of \$77,419 over the biennium.

6. Justice

- a. Proposed a comprehensive reduction in Legal Services Division of \$1,366,933 over the biennium. To include:
 - i. Operational Expenditures
 - ii. **Employee Travel (including statewide assistance offered to Counties)**
 - iii. Voluntary reductions in work hours
 - iv. Reduce outside council expenditures
 - v. RIF employees (unknown number)
- b. Justice Information Technology Services Division reductions to include unfilled vacancies, maintenance contracts, employee travel/training, and hardware purchases for a total reduction of \$895,668 over the biennium.

- c. Division of Criminal Investigation reductions include reduction in operating expenditures, equipment purchases, grant awards, and investigator overtime for narcotics for a total estimated savings of \$1,497,767 over the biennium.
- d. Forensic Science Division reductions of \$951,226 over the biennium include:
 - i. Close satellite chemistry lab in Billings
 - ii. Cancel plans to build morgue in Billings
 - 1. "Significant impact to eastern counties with added travel/transportation time, cost and delay of results."
 - iii. Eliminate child hair testing (reverts to cost borne by DPHHS)
 - iv. Cease analysis of property crimes
 - v. Discontinue purchasing of submission kits
 - 1. Local agencies will be required to order their own DUI, Toxicology, and Urine Analysis kits.
- e. Motor Vehicle Division cuts of \$949,928 over the biennium include:
 - i. Unfilled vacancies
 - ii. Eliminate replacement of fleet field vehicles
 - iii. Delay timeline on current drivers' license modernization project
 - iv. Reduce proposed contract for 24/7 program (reduce the number of people placed in program).
 - 1. **24/7 program gets pretrial detainees out of county jails. Reducing the number of participants increases the number of pretrial detainees in county jails.**
- f. Central Services Division reduction of \$126,782 over the biennium include:
 - i. Unfilled vacancies
 - ii. Electron software purchase reductions
- g. Public Safety Office Standards and Training Council reductions of \$84,237 over the biennium include:
 - i. **Reduce or eliminate investigations into allegations and complaints of officer misconduct.**
 - ii. **Delay the certification of public safety officers**
 - iii. **Delay the approval of ongoing training requirements**

7. Department of Labor and Industry

- a. 10% general fund reduction in personnel and operating budget for Office of Administrative Hearings, totaling \$47,497 over the biennium.
- b. Reduction in the Human Rights Bureau annual travel, outreach, and legal expenses; reduction in personnel expenditure based on upcoming retirement for a total biennial decrease of \$271,269.
- c. Reduced staff hours in the Office of Community Service in the amount of \$59,008 over the biennium. Note – program is partially supported by federal appropriation which will also match the decrease.

8. Department of Livestock

- a. Livestock Loss Board proposes a 10% reduction in the amount of \$18,492 over the biennium. Travel and rent reductions will be used to meet the goal.

- b. DSA staff reductions in the amount of \$168,009 over the biennium. Will result in decreased testing in the Designated Surveillance Area around Yellowstone Park.
 - c. Diagnostic Lab reductions of \$141,141 over the biennium. May result in increased fees or reduction in testing for brucellosis and milk/dairy testing.
 - d. Meat/Poultry Inspection program reductions of \$183,774 over the biennium include vehicle lease and travel reductions. Note – meat and poultry inspections are matched with federal funds (50/50) so the reductions are double.
- 9. Department of Military Affairs
 - a. DES reductions of \$233,134 over the biennium. “These cuts will be made in field office personnel and operating costs.”
 - b. Veterans Affairs reduction of \$117,974 over the biennium. VA will eliminate veterans service outreach program, terminate VSO grant program and limit meetings/trainings.
- 10. Montana Board of Crime Control
 - a. Proposed \$61,916 in personal services and operating expenses by leaving two vacant positions vacant for FY 18.
 - b. Proposed \$400,000 reduction in the supportive housing program authorized by SB 65. Case management and housing placement services for people reentering the community from the criminal justice system will not be funded with general fund. Counties, cities or towns, and tribal governments are eligible to receive grant funding under SB 65.
- 11. DNRC
 - a. Proposed Director’s Office 10% reduction of \$730,999 over the biennium is described as follows:
 - i. Reduce equipment purchases and leases
 - ii. Accept voluntary reduction offered by staff
 - iii. Charge personnel services to fire orgs where appropriate of approximately \$6,000
 - iv. Hold position open indefinitely
 - v. Operations will be reduced in the Flathead Basin Commission
 - vi. Reduction of staff hours will make up the remainder
 - b. Conservation & Resource Development Division reductions are \$345,218 over the biennium and include “Sheridan Groundwater study, 310 permitting and Montana Salinity Control Program. Sage Grouse program will see a reduction in operations. Travel will be reduced.
 - c. Water Resource Division proposes a 10% reduction target of \$1,821,391. Reduction in funding stream gauges, field work, travel/training restrictions.
- 12. Forestry Division reductions total \$2,504,897 for the biennium and include:
 - a. Reduce by 7 the number of wildland fire engines that were to be build and distributed to cooperating local government fire departments in the cooperative fire program. Will impact initial attack capabilities across Montana.
 - b. Eliminate replacement of two repeaters.
 - c. Ground aircraft in Air Operations to save money, or charge more for flights to identify fires and/or plan for fire suppression activities.

- d. Reduce training opportunities in fire suppression and fire management for both local government and DNRC personnel.
- e. Hold vacant positions open longer.
- f. Reduce grants to communities and partners in the Urban and Community Forestry and Forest Stewardship Programs.
- g. Reduce/eliminate year-round coordination with interagency firefighting partners and participation in statewide fire prevention and community protection organizations.
- h. Trust Lands Management Division reductions of \$31,477 over the biennium include reductions in timber sales, pre-commercial thinning, weed spraying, agriculture and grazing lease evaluations on Morrill Trust lands.

13. Office of State Public Defender

- a. Elimination of contracted attorneys, estimated to reduce general fund by \$4,229,115 over the biennium. To include an additional \$381,369 and \$1,337,988 from other line items (all for contracted public defender services).
 - i. Reduction in contracted attorneys will delay case processing, and counties pay the cost of incarceration for felony defendants/offenders awaiting sentencing. Court delays directly impact county detention centers.
 - ii. Additional contract cuts of \$523,118 in Programs 1 through 3

14. Department of Public Health and Human Resources

- a. Do not fill positions (11% of division positions) resulting in a savings of \$1,327,310 over the biennium
- b. Close satellite offices in Hamilton, Polson, Browning, and Bozeman for a savings of \$58,024 over the biennium
- c. Eliminate in person training for personnel development, resulting in a projected savings of \$200,000 over the biennium
- d. Community rehabilitation provider rate reduction from \$64/hr. to \$37.88/hr. for individual service and \$21.90/hr. for group services saving an estimated \$302,622 over the biennium
- e. Eliminate Mt. Youth Leadership Forum for a projected savings of \$385,000 over the biennium (students with disabilities)
- f. Eliminate Mt Youth Transitions program (students with disabilities) for an estimated savings of \$396,000 over the biennium
- g. Eliminate Orientation and Mobility Instruction contract for approximately 300 children with low vision or blindness, for an estimated savings of \$175,576
- h. Reduce Extended Employment Contract for ongoing support services to persons with severe disabilities who work in a facility or community based employment setting, reducing expenditures by an estimated \$570,000 over the biennium
- i. Hold 9% central office positions in HCSD open to reduce expenditures by an estimated \$617,432 over the biennium.
- j. Reduction in funding for Best Beginnings Advisory Council, reduces STARS grants to child care facilities, reduces professional development incentives for child care workers; reduces Child Care and Development Fund contracts by 1%, and reduces CCUBS

- maintenance and operations contract with Northrup Grumman by one Level of Effort to reduce expenditures by an estimated \$994,492 over the biennium.
- k. Reduce TANF funding for second chance homes in Missoula, Billings, and Helena (teen parents) resulting in an expenditure reduction of \$600,000 over the biennium.
 - l. Elimination of office locations in small communities and reduces motor pool by 50% statewide. Permently reduces 14 positions, transfers 14 eligibility staff to larger offices. Offices with 0-3 staff are targeted for closure, resulting in an expenditure reduction of \$2,483,342 over the biennium.
 - m. TANF Pathways contract reduced by 10%, results in an expenditure reduction of \$3,839,224 over the biennium
 - n. Administrative re organization, resulting in the elimination of four Regional Field Managers, one Contract Relations Manager, one Customer Service Supervisor, on QA Call Monitor, and an Associate Administrator, and consolidation of Field Operations Manager in Miles City and Wolfpoint. Results in an expenditure reduction of \$1,563,374 for the biennium
 - o. Eliminate cell phones for "employees who do not use them regularly in the course of their daily work", resulting in an expenditure reduction of \$63,096 over the biennium
 - p. Elimination of contracts with Child Advocacy Centers across the state for forensic interviews with child victims of abuse/neglect. Local Law Enforcement of child protection specialists would conduct interviews instead, resulting in an expenditure reduction of \$204,000 over the biennium
 - q. Restructure division management in Program 3, results in expenditure reduction of \$210,148 over the biennium
 - r. Eliminates second chance home/center for children and families funding that provides housing and treatment services for addicted parents. Results in an expenditure reduction of \$1,440,200 over the biennium
 - s. Reduce costs associated with chemical screening. Establish a universal rate for drug testing parents, results in an expenditure reduction of \$2,400,000 over the biennium
 - t. Stop development of new case management system for CFS, resulting in an expenditure reduction of \$2,397,388 over the biennium
 - u. Eliminate case management for foster children in Missoula County Health Department, Cascade City-County Health Department, and Yellowstone counties (Riverstone Health). Results in an expenditure reduction of \$348,840 over the biennium.
 - v. Eliminate general fund in Title IV-B contracts. Contracts for providers in communities across the state would be limited to the federal grant amount, and the associated required general fund match. Results in an expenditure reduction of \$1,806,010 over the biennium
 - w. Eliminate contracted coordinator for pre- hearing conferences for 13th Judicial District in Yellowstone County. Expenditure reduction of \$93,856 over the biennium
 - x. Eliminate general fund contribution to Big Brothers/Big Sisters, resulting in an expenditure reduction of \$99,992 over the biennium
 - y. Eliminate un-matched general fund in the Domestic Violence Grant, including elimination of funding for the Montana Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Direct funding covering the cost of shelter expenses are partially covered by federal grant and

state special revenue funds, but the expenditure reduction as proposed is \$235,942 over the biennium

- z. Eliminates general fund equalize services between tribal and non-tribal children in foster care, resulting in an expenditure reduction of \$399,998 over the biennium
- aa. Tribal child welfare match elimination for IV-E contracts, results in an expenditure reduction of \$834,000 over the biennium
- bb. Eliminates diaper support stipend for foster care placement providers, resulting in an expenditure reduction of \$421,286 over the biennium
- cc. Eliminates funding to support early education and awareness on shaken baby syndrome, and the Period of Purple Crying, resulting in an expenditure reduction of \$220,000 over the biennium
- dd. Restructure legal services, resulting in an expenditure reduction of \$636,267 over the biennium
- ee. 10.7% reduction in child support division, resulting in an expenditure reduction of \$840,080 over the biennium
- ff. Mandatory furlough of one hour per working day in the child support division, resulting in an expenditure reduction of \$1,306,954 over the biennium
- gg. 30% reduction in travel; eliminates CSED implementation of absorbing employer online payments, resulting in an expenditure reduction of \$17,931 over the biennium
- hh. Program 6 reductions include:
 - i. \$949,666 in vacancy savings
 - ii. \$88,200 in travel and training reductions
 - iii. \$648,984 in furloughs of 5 hours per week in FY 18 and 4 hours per week in FY 19
- ii. Reduce funding to county health services providing contraception, counseling, and health screenings to low income individuals, resulting in an expenditure reduction of \$500,000 over the biennium
- jj. Reduce operational support for counties and tribes during communicable disease outbreaks, resulting in an expenditure reduction of \$65,954 over the biennium
- kk. Reduction for medical insurance assistance for those with HIV by 21.5%, resulting in an expenditure reduction of \$80,904 over the biennium
- ll. Reduction in funding for vaccines for un/underinsured adults that do not qualify for federal programs, resulting in an expenditure reduction of \$20,230 over the biennium
- mm. Public Health and Safety Division vacancy savings in the amount of \$111,399 over the biennium
- nn. Vacancy savings in Program 8 in the amount of \$822,136 over the biennium
- oo. Mandatory furlough of 3 hours per week for FY 18 and 2 hours per week by FY 19, for an expenditure reduction of \$694,979 over the biennium
- pp. Various IT reductions proposed to reduce expenditures by \$1,023,784 over the biennium
- qq. Eliminate support services for Microsoft products, reduce budgets for equipment purchase, service and maintenance, resulting in an expenditure reduction of \$618,318 over the biennium

- rr. Reduce network connections in Public Assistance offices, resulting in a reduced expenditure of \$148,000 over the biennium
- ss. Reduce contract for CFS database, resulting in a reduction in expenditures of \$661,276 over the biennium
- tt. 10% reduction in the service contract for vendors handling eligibility for Medicaid, SNAP, and TANF, resulting in an expenditure reduction of \$5,211,016 over the biennium
- uu. Elimination of 3 IT support positions, resulting in an expenditure reduction of \$570,000 over the biennium
- vv. Eliminate phones for \$100,436
- ww. Eliminate options targeted case management service in Children's Mental Health Program, resulting in a reduction in expenditures of \$14,451,480 over the biennium
- xx. Eliminate the Family Education and Support Program, resulting in a reduced expenditure of \$1,174,000 over the biennium
- yy. Eliminate Evaluation and Diagnostic Clinics that previously assisted in diagnosing developmental disabilities, resulting in an expenditure decrease of \$500,000 over the biennium
- zz. Implement prior authorization for the partial hospital program in Children's Mental Health, with a reduction in expenditures estimated at \$425,000 over the biennium
- aaa. Eliminate general fund only targeted case management for non-Medicaid eligible children, resulting in an expenditure reduction of \$140,000 over the biennium
- bbb. Eliminate Supported Employment Leadership Network, resulting in an expenditure reduction of \$70,000 over the biennium
- ccc. Eliminates dental coordination contract to improve dental care for individuals with a disability, resulting in an expenditure reduction of \$60,000 over the biennium
- ddd. Eliminates PLUK library for families and individuals impacted by disability, resulting in an expenditure reduction of \$56,906 over the biennium
- eee. Reduce staff hours directed at provider and member service support, resulting in an expenditure reduction of \$734,000 over the biennium
- fff. Implement utilization review of laboratory services for genetics testing in Children's Mental Health, resulting in an expenditure reduction of \$1,228,148 over the biennium
- ggg. Limit PRTF rate for out of state providers to 133% of the state rate, resulting in an expenditure reduction of \$1,350,000 over the biennium
- hhh. Reduce Youth Crisis Diversion grants by \$600,000 over the biennium
- iii. Home Support Services would be changed to allow providers to bill only for days they have contact with youth or family, resulting in an expenditure reduction of \$1,123,200 over the biennium
- jjj. Limit outpatient sessions to 10 prior to a child receiving a Significantly Emotionally Disturbed diagnosis. The current is 24 sessions, resulting in an expenditure reduction of \$250,000 over the biennium
- kkk. Therapeutic Group Home initial stay would be limited to 120 days prior to requiring utilization review, resulting in an expenditure reduction of \$297,500 over the biennium
- lll. Reduce rates for Medicaid Psychiatric and Testing Services, resulting in an expenditure reduction of \$183,800 over the biennium


- mmm. Medicaid Targeted Case Management elimination, resulting in an expenditure reduction of \$10,257,940 over the biennium
- nnn. Eliminate Part C Infant and Toddler program serving developmentally disabled and at-risk children aged 0-36 months, resulting in a reduction in expenditures of \$10,041,210 over the biennium
- ooo. Reduce staff hours providing support services to Medicaid providers, resulting in an expenditure reduction of \$600,000 over the biennium
- ppp. Eliminate 1 FTE and operating costs related to the passport program, resulting in an expenditure reduction of \$150,000 over the biennium
- qqq. Eliminate Medicare Part D premium coverage program, resulting in an expenditure reduction of \$630,000 over the biennium
- rrr. Eliminate Medicaid Passport program, resulting in 81,000 members NOT being required to see their passport provider and un-enrolling 427 providers from the program. Estimated to result in an expenditure reduction of \$5,838,750 over the biennium
- sss. Eliminate Big Sky Rx program, unenrolling 10,430 members from the benefit resulting in an expenditure reduction of \$6,830,000 over the biennium
- ttt. Eliminate Plan First Waiver, which is a family planning waiver that provides limited benefits to women 19-44 up to 211% Federal Poverty Level. Program has experience declining enrollment since Medicaid expansion, and will result in an expenditure reduction of \$1,538,720 over the biennium
- uuu. Eliminate Targeted Case Management for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs, resulting in an expenditure reduction of \$1,528,200 over the biennium
- vvv. Rate reduction for Medicaid Critical Access Hospitals (46 of them), resulting in an expenditure reduction of \$2,906,776 over the biennium
- www. Reduce Outpatient Prospective Payment System Hospital rates resulting in an expenditure reduction of \$11,542,807 over the biennium
- xxx. Implement prior authorization requirements for certain physician administered drugs, resulting in an expenditure reduction of \$1,137,684 over the biennium
- yyy. Modify Medicaid dental coverage to eliminate high cost and extensive dental procedures, resulting in an expenditure reduction of \$17,820,116 and impacting 44,774 members
- zzz. Reduce rates for Medicaid Prover Based Clinic payments, resulting in reductions of payments to 11 outpatient hospitals and 10 critical access hospitals. Expenditure reduction of \$8,485,258 over the biennium
- aaaa. Establish prior authorization for imaging services (MRI, PET, CT) impacting 216 outpatient hospitals, 56 physicians, 38 critical access hospitals, 5 independent labs, and 8 mid-level practitioners, resulting in an expenditure reduction of \$1,510,018 over the biennium
- bbbb. Align Medicaid member mileage reimbursement with State mileage reimbursement rate, resulting in an expenditure reduction of \$1,174,424 over the biennium
- cccc. Reduce incontinence supply benefit resulting in an expenditure reduction of \$1,457,314 over the biennium

- dddd. Rate reductions for out of state hospitals for specialty services (like Children's, Sacred Heart, Harborview Trauma, Cancer Alliance) resulting in an expenditure reduction of \$1,800,810 over the biennium
- eeee. Add utilization review for genetic testing and lab work, resulting in an expenditure reduction of \$861,146 over the biennium
- ffff. Reduce rates for Medicare Durable Medical Equipment supplies (prosthetics and orthotics) results in an expenditure reduction of \$3,942,316 over the biennium
- gggg. Change eye benefit from once/year to once every two years, resulting in an expenditure reduction of \$948,084 over the biennium
- hhhh. Reduce Medicaid orthodontia criteria, resulting in denials of approximately 25% of requests, resulting in an expenditure reduction of \$2,568,940 over the biennium
- iiii. Eliminate Health Improvement Program (HIP) resulting in an expenditure reduction of \$5,843,908 over the biennium
- jjjj. Reduce rates for Medicaid Comprehensive Primary Care Plus (CPC+) to match Patient Centered Medical Home rates, resulting in an expenditure reduction of \$2,003,370 over the biennium
- kkkk. Change NCQA payments to match Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH) rates, resulting in an expenditure reduction of \$1,059,306 over the biennium
- llll. Reduce IT Contracts MMIS and Flexible RX contracts, resulting in an expenditure reduction of \$1,865,584 over the biennium
- mmmm. Unfilled vacancies in Program 16, resulting in an expenditure reduction of \$438,547 over the biennium
- nnnn. Reduce staff hours providing support for Medicaid providers, resulting in an expenditure reduction of \$750,000 over the biennium
- oooo. Reorganize Adult Protective Services by closing one office, halting mail, decrease travel for an expenditure reduction of \$337,800 over the biennium
- pppp. Reduce services under Medicaid Big Sky Waiver by setting caps on service, resulting in expenditure reductions of \$6,821,206 over the biennium
- qqqq. Eliminate payment for health care insurance for direct care workers in community based service programs, resulting in an expenditure reduction of \$10,252,130 over the biennium
- rrrr. Add Big Sky Tribal Waivers (Medicaid) for CSKT and Blackfeet reservations, resulting in an expenditure reduction of \$1,036,200 over the biennium
- ssss. Eliminate optional hospice service for Medicaid, resulting in an expenditure reduction of \$8,526,691 over the biennium
- tttt. Eliminate Personal Assistance Services for Medicaid, resulting in an expenditure reduction of \$9,111,726 over the biennium
- uuuu. Reduce services in Medicaid Community First Choice by reducing mileage, household support, and streamline authorization. Results in an expenditure reduction of \$6,463,098 over the biennium
- vvvv. Reduce the number of staff hours providing services to Medicaid recipients, resulting in an expenditure reduction of \$750,000 over the biennium

- www. Increase pay for psychiatrists to generate a decrease in the number of temporary professional staff, resulting in an expenditure reduction of \$1,200,000 over the biennium
- xxxx. Cut non-defined operating costs at Montana State Hospital by \$2,205,938 over the biennium
- yyyy. Add utilization review for intensive substance abuse disorder services, resulting in a decrease in expenditures of \$872,528 over the biennium
- zzzz. Limit services for Medicaid Mental Health Outpatient Therapy by requiring a physical assessment asserting SDMI for more than 12 sessions per year, resulting in an expenditure reduction of \$1,000,000 over the biennium
- aaaaa. Eliminate state only funded chemical dependency treatment services, resulting in an expenditure reduction of \$1,644,176 over the biennium
- bbbbb. Reduce County Matching Grants for MH/Jail Diversion by \$1,072,516 over the biennium**
- ccccc. Eliminate Medicaid Substance Use Disorder Targeted Case Management services, resulting in an expenditure reduction of \$682,724 over the biennium
- ddddd. Eliminate adult SDMI case management services for an expenditure reduction of \$21,698,082 over the biennium
- 15. Office of Public Instruction – proposes \$1,845,473 in general fund reductions by implementing a hiring freeze and limiting operating expenses
 - a. Also proposed \$5,875,204 over the biennium by reducing mandatory block grant funding and BASE aid distributed to districts?
- 16. Revenue
 - a. Director's Office reductions include delayed computer replacements, contract service reductions, and operating cost reductions for an expenditure reduction of \$1,360,943 over the biennium
 - b. Liquor Control Division vacancy savings of 10%, resulting in a decrease of \$446,148 in personnel and \$115,501 in operations over the biennium
 - c. Citizen Services and Resource Management Division will maintain a hiring freeze for 13.5 vacant positions, reduce temporary services, and likely delay income tax return refund processing. Will result in a general fund reduction of \$1,157,462 plus an operating expenditure decrease of \$538,215 over the biennium
 - d. 10% Business Income Tax Division reduction will result in a reduction of 24 FTE in 2018 and 15 throughout 2019. Income tax refunds, return of unclaimed property, and personal property tax refunds from contractors' gross receipts will be delayed, resulting in a general fund reduction of \$1,756,289 plus an operating expense reduction of \$272,626 over the biennium
 - e. 10% reduction in Property Assessment Division will result in 11 vacant positions being left vacant, and a reduction of force of 80 FTE for the remainder of FY 2018, and 52 throughout FY 2019. This would result in a general fund reduction of \$3,413,610 over the biennium.**
 - f. Operations reductions in PAD amount to \$694,492 over the biennium. Director Kadas has indicated the reductions will lead to office closures in rural areas in Montana**

17. Montana State Library

- a. 21% reduction in operations (\$40,000)
- b. HB 2 and SB 261 already forced a 32% reduction in budget, with a 10 FTE reduction. The additional 10% requested by the Governor will result in to more FTE being cut and would likely result in the elimination of statutory programs at the State Library (providing library services to blind and physically disabled, Land Information Management). Total reductions would result in a general fund savings of \$441,836 over the biennium



October 2, 2017

Legislative Finance Committee
P.O. Box 201711
Helena, Montana 59620-1711

RE: Letter of Support
DNRC – Flathead Basin Commission

Dear Chair Ballance and Members of the Committee:

This letter serves to support the funding necessary to maintain the Flathead Basin Commission as an active, viable, and necessary part of the State of Montana government. **The work of the commission, particularly its efforts regarding aquatic invasive species, is critical to the economy and natural environment of the state.**

Recent legislative sessions have recognized in their budgets the importance of addressing aquatic invasive species, particularly the potential infestation of quagga and zebra mussels. What the legislators may not understand is the key and essential role the Flathead Basin Commission has made in the fight against these invasive species. Long before the state agencies recognized the threat of and geared up to fight these invaders, the Flathead Basin Commission was moving heaven and earth to educate the public, seek grant support, and establish inspection stations. One cannot overstate the importance of these early and continuing efforts.


The work of the Flathead Basin Commission remains critical to keeping invasive mussels out of the Flathead Basin and, therefore, out of the Columbia River Basin which has both regional and international consequences.

The commission's work is important in that it is the only force that brings together state, federal and international entities toward one common cause of protecting the natural resources of the Flathead Basin. It is the only entity that can create the efficiencies that result from such collaboration. The 1983 legislature, in creating the commission, recognized the need for and value of this communication and collaboration. Important issues being addressed by the commission are: preventing aquatic invasive species, protecting transboundary natural resources, addressing railway spill hazards to water quality, monitoring basin surface and ground water quality, improving stormwater management to protect water quality, and promoting responsible land use planning,

In the midst of many immediate needs for state funding, it may be difficult to support an entity that addresses goals that are more behind-the-scene than other issues. But, the impacts of either drastically reducing or eliminating funding for the Flathead Basin Commission will have substantial and irreversible damage to the public's interests in protecting the natural environment and economy of the state and region.

I strongly urge you to maintain the funding necessary for the Flathead Basin Commission to continue its current staffing and its important role in Montana's future.

Sincerely,



Susan K. (Brueggeman) Foster
3640 Whitefish Stage, Kalispell, Montana 59911

From: Alex Dubish
To: [Lindsay, Susie](#)
Subject: Legislative Finance Committee - Comments
Date: Monday, October 02, 2017 10:49:01 PM

October 2, 2017

Legislative Finance Committee

I am a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Specialist and utilize the essential data that the Montana State Library provides both professionally and personally. I am writing to you on my own behalf to implore you to prioritize the State Library as the Montana State Library provides invaluable information to so many agencies, local governments and the public.

The services provided are unparalleled in any other state. Montanans benefit from the services provided in the various State, Federal agencies and local governments by the availability of real, accurate data. The efficiencies gained are immeasurable. The public benefits directly through utilizing the web services in a state where real estate and land issues are a daily part of life.

With that, I am writing to request that you exempt the State Library Commission from the ten percent budget cut that you are requesting from all state agencies. The State Library was previously targeted in Senate Bill 261 and has already suffered a thirty-two percent cut that other agencies did not experience.

The State Library's general fund budget is only 0.2 percent of the general fund and exempting them from the proposed new round of cuts does not create a noticeable burden on the remaining agencies.

Sincerely,

Alex Dubish
Bozeman, MT
[406.581.1030](tel:406.581.1030)
Member of the Montana Association Geographic Information Professionals (MAGIP)

From: [Carlson, Amy](#)
To: [Holzer, Quinn](#); [Lindsay, Susie](#); [Maciver, Angus](#); [Fred Thomas](#); [McNally, Mary](#)
Subject: FW: 17-7-140 reduction plan
Date: Tuesday, October 03, 2017 8:27:15 AM

From: nananhan [mailto:nananhan@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, October 2, 2017 8:23 PM
To: Carlson, Amy
Subject: 17-7-140 reduction plan

Please forward to: Angus Maciver, Fred Thomas, Mary McNally. Thank you

My name is Lisa Richmond I work for the Thompson Falls Office of Public Assistance located in Sanders County. Our office has been notified of a possible office closure due to the 10% budget cuts. I have had the pleasure to serve my community as a Client Service Coordinator for over 8 years. I have been a resident of Sanders County for 21 years and during that residency I have worked for numerous agencies and businesses that provide services to the diverse groups of individuals that reside in my County.

The building that my office is located in is known as a "One-Stop" office because there are numerous State affiliated agencies located under the same roof. Those agencies are Child Protective Services, Job Service, the Missoula Extension Office and the Pathways Office which is part of our TANF program. Our building is the first place people in our community go for assistance, for information on resources and referrals to other agencies, we are a hub and well-known to the citizens of our County.

I understand that we cannot spend money that we do not have however I feel that shutting down access to an office that provides service and support for food and medical needs to our most vulnerable citizens is a disservice. Our elderly and disabled individuals struggle to navigate and understand a system of computers and telephones. Our County has a high unemployment rate, our County is ranked fifth in the poverty levels in the State of Montana, our County is an average of 122 miles away from Missoula and an average of 110 miles from Lake County which would be the next closest Office of Public Assistance from Sanders County.

I have concerns for every office and community that is facing a possible closure. I advocate for my community because I see the faces of the people in my community I know the barriers that they face living in a rural area. I asked when you are determining the faith of our office that you consider our unemployment rate, our population of disabled and elderly individuals, our poverty levels and how close the closest Office of Public Assistance would be from Sanders County should our office be closed, keeping in mind that not everybody has the internet, not everybody has adequate telephone service, not everybody knows how to use a computer and not everybody has reliable transportation.

Sincerely,

Lisa Richmond

From: Austin Dunham-Weidner
To: [Lindsay, Susie](#)
Subject: Objection to Public Safety Cuts
Date: Tuesday, October 03, 2017 9:44:51 AM

Dear Ms. Lindsay,

I am the former Guardian Ad Litem for Fergus, Judith Basin and Petroleum Counties.

I had the privilege to represent children, through the efforts of Child and Family Services to protect them, and to assist their parent(s) in becoming more responsible. Cutting funding to their efforts will severely impact what happens to the children when their parents cannot adequately care for them, or abuse them, or prefer taking drugs to raising their children.

I wish the Finance Committee could go into just one home that is inhabited by parents who would rather use drugs than feed their child, or send their child to school. I cannot tell you how many children asked me if I had ever slept in a real bed, with real sheets and a real blanket. For example, I worked with 4 siblings who witnessed their uncle stab their aunt in a drug fueled rage, while their parents were doing drugs in the same home. The eldest child was 5. Prior to the involvement of CFS, the parents were often passed out, there was little to no food in the home and not a bed, nor a crib for a family of 6. This little girl, who should have been in kindergarten, did her best to take care of everyone, including her youngest infant sister, trying to figure out how to bottle feed and change the baby.

Thankfully, because of the efforts of Child and Family Services and the 10th Judicial Court, these children, and their cousin who witnessed this violence, were placed in a safe foster home, with real bedding, food, love, attention and went back to school. What if CFS did not have the resources to help these and all the other children who need assistance in so many ways?

The programs that are in danger of being cut are literally lifelines to these kids, and often are the only pathway to sobriety for the parents and reunification. This is real life, not a line item on a piece of paper.

Find another solution - cut the salaries of our legislators, trim the budget that keeps the Capitol building neat and tidy. Do anything else.... and SAVE THE KIDS of MONTANA.

Sincerely,

Austin Dunham Weidner
Attorney at Law

--

Austin Dunham Weidner
Attorney at Law
abdweidner@gmail.com
406-366-2216

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received this email by mistake and delete this email from your system.

From: [Carlson, Amy](#)
To: [Lindsay, Susie](#)
Subject: FW: State Library Budget Cuts
Date: Tuesday, October 03, 2017 12:29:48 PM

From: Charlie Newsome [mailto:charlie@maverickbrokers.com]

Sent: Tuesday, October 3, 2017 11:28 AM

To: Carlson, Amy

Subject: State Library Budget Cuts

Charles L. Newsome Jr. – Real Estate Salesperson & Realtor®

Maverick Realty

515 W. Park Street

Livingston, MT 59047

October 3, 2017

Legislative Fiscal Division

PO Box 201711

Helena, MT 59620-1711

Dear Sirs & Madams,

I am writing to express my concern for the proposed additional budget cuts that the State Library Commission has been requested to implement. From my understanding, the State Library has already faced substantial budget cuts from Senate Bill 261, which other agencies did not experience. My concern is that, with additional funding cuts the State Library will not be able to maintain services in which Park County and the Park County GIS department rely, thereby not allowing them to properly maintain a service I rely on for useful information on a day to day basis.

The budget cut that was required in Senate Bill 261 has resulted in the State Library having to close off portions of library space for state employees, reduced its capacity to serve State Library patrons, and eliminated the geographic information staff's ability to maintain some of the State's spatial data. I am especially concerned about the State Library's Cadastral web site and its ability to provide easy to reference property ownership data, which is a cornerstone to the entire Park County GIS system. I care greatly about the Park County GIS department and the State Library's Cadastral website. This is one of the primary tools that real estate professionals across the state rely on for property data in our day to day activities and the folks in the Park County GIS department are working hard to make this data even more useful.

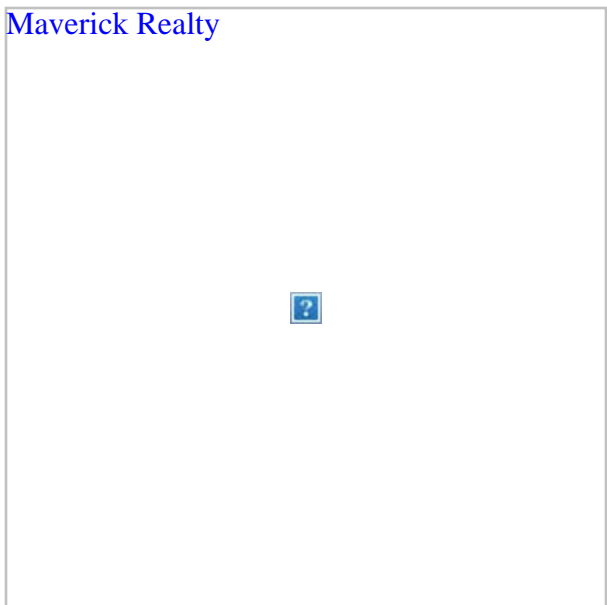
Just yesterday, October 2nd, there were issues with Cadastral that limited its functionality for some users. This had a serious effect on my ability to provide accurate information to my clients in a timely manner. It's understandable that websites and services will sometimes have downtime or problems, but with even more limited funding for the State Library I fear that this could be a sign of things to come.

Further reductions in the State Library's budget will not only affect the State's ability to serve local governments, but will greatly affect local Realtors®, land surveyors, home appraisers, and many Montana residents across the state. By exempting the State Library Commission from an additional ten percent budget cut, the State of Montana can continue to provide an important service for many city and county governments, local businesses, and all Montanans.

Sincerely,

Charles L. Newsome Jr.
Realtor®

[Maverick Realty](#)



Cell:406-224-0926 **Office:**406-222-0304



515 W. Park Street Livingston, MT 59047

[Maverick Realty](#)

[Livingston MT Rentals](#)

[Black Bear Vacation Rentals](#)

October 3, 2017

RE: Proposed State Budget Cuts

Dear Governor Bullock and Montana State Legislators:

The Best Beginnings Yellowstone County coalition wishes to respectfully express our concerns and desires regarding proposed budget cuts. We are a strong coalition of multiple agencies and professionals working with children and families in Yellowstone County. Together, we have a level of expertise that gives us a unique perspective on this issue. We wish to share this perspective and offer our expertise as a resource. We understand this is a difficult situation and thank you for your consideration to maintain a financially responsible state while protecting our values and citizens.

What We Want

We are asking that the Governor and Legislators reconsider cuts to the following programs:

1). Part C Early Childhood Intervention. **2).** Second Chance Homes-Center for Children and Families. **3).** Second Chance Homes-Harmony House. **4).** Foster Child Health/Public Nurse Partnership program. **5).** Medicaid and Non-Medicaid Targeted Case Management in Children's Mental Health program. **6).** Targeted Case Management for Children and Youth with Special Healthcare Needs. **7)** Unmatched general funds in the DPHHS, Child and Family Services budget for In-Home/Prevention service providers. **8)** STARS to Quality.

We are in favor of solutions which address funding shortfalls. Though additional revenue would help, we do not believe that revenue alone is a sufficient response to the human service crisis in our community. The challenges to economic growth, education, and health and human services are interconnected, but solutions currently are not. Our local early childhood coalition has worked very hard on cost saving and revenue-neutral system solutions for young children in Yellowstone County. We are calling on the Governor and legislators to work together on the kind of system change conversations we have been having on the local level. We have many ideas to share.

Why These Cuts Need to Be Avoided

- Cuts to these programs will result in developmental harms to young children, setting them on trajectories for education, mental health, and physical health challenges. For many in foster care it will negatively affect their potential for permanency.
- Cuts to these programs will promote economic instability for parents.
- Early childhood programs have repeatedly been shown to generate cost-savings long term. Eliminating these will result in much higher service costs down the road.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We value your hard work to do what's right for our state and all our residents. Please contact Kristin Lundgren, Director of Impact at United Way of Yellowstone County, at 406-272-8505 with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Best Beginnings Yellowstone County

Billings Clinic, Early Childhood Intervention, Explorer's Academy Head Start, Family Support Network, District 7 HRDC, The Family Tree Center, The Center for Children and Families, RiverStone Health, St. Vincent Healthcare, The Mental Health Center, Young Families Early Head Start, Montana Educators of Young Children (Billings Chapter), Billings Back Pack Meals and Teen Pantry, United Way of Yellowstone County

Best Beginnings Yellowstone County State Budget Insights, 2017

Key Points

- 67% of children who receive early intervention services do not need special education preschool – These programs empower children while potentially saving Montana over \$5 Million each year.
- In the first 7 years of the Second Chance Homes project at the Center for Children and Families, 25 children were saved from entering the foster care system. This amounts to a savings of \$5,250,300 for taxpayers.
- It has been well established that every \$1 invested in prevention and early childhood services returns \$4-\$7 in savings later in life.
- While services are life-changing for individuals involved, these programs also create benefits for everyone, including:
 - 1). Decreased pressure on school resources.
 - 2). Increased graduation and success for children.
 - 3). Increases in quality workers for employers.
 - 4). Increased tax revenue.
 - 5). Reduced crime
 - 6). Economic growth.

“All states have early intervention because everybody knows you pay a nickel now or you pay many dollars later.”

- David Munson, Director Early Childhood Intervention, Billings



Erica Hoffman – Park County GIS/IT Manager
Steven Jay – Park County GIS Analyst
414 E Callender St.
Livingston, MT 59047

October 3, 2017

Legislative Fiscal Division
PO Box 201711
Helena, MT 59620-1711

Dear Legislative Finance Committee,

We are writing to express our concern for the proposed additional budget cuts the State Library Commission has been requested to implement. The State Library has already faced substantial budget cuts from Senate Bill 261, which other agencies did not experience. Our concern is that, with additional funding cuts, the State Library will not be able to maintain services in which Park County and the Park County GIS department rely.

The budget cut that was required in Senate Bill 261 have resulted in the State Library having to close off portions of library space for state employees, reduced its capacity to serve State Library patrons, and eliminated the geographic information staff's ability to maintain some of the State's spatial data. As public servants for Park County we often rely on State Library resources to obtain spatial data that we do not have the capacity to produce and maintain with our small staff. We are especially concerned about the State Library's Cadastral web site and its ability to provide easy to reference property ownership data, which is a cornerstone to the entire Park County GIS system.

As the department in charge of mapping Park County resources as well as providing mapping services to Park County residents, many of our data products integrate or use State Library geographic information. Additionally, Park County has received several grants from the State Library Commission in order to improve Park County cadastral line work. Cadastral data is used by Park County Staff, local businesses, and the general public. Improving the accuracy of this data not only helps local government but also a large section of Montana citizens.

Further reductions in the State Library's budget will not only affect the State's ability to serve local governments, but will also affect local realtors, land surveyors, and many Montana residents. By exempting the State Library Commission from an additional 10 percent budget cut, the State of Montana can continue to provide an important service for many city and county governments, local businesses, and all Montanans.

Sincerely,


Erica Hoffman
GIS/IT Manager


Steven Jay
GIS Analyst

From: Kathy James
To: [Lindsay, Susie](#)
Subject: Public Comment for Legislative finance Committee Oct. 4 & 5
Date: Wednesday, October 04, 2017 4:55:55 AM

Members of Legislative Finance Committee,

Please do not decrease funding for our most vulnerable citizens in MT. You have a huge task ahead of you. I urge you to try and find ways to increase funds. I would suggest taxing guns, alcohol, tobacco and soft drinks.

Thank you,
Kathy James
1570 Westridge Circle
Billings MT 59102
406-670-5658

--

Kathy James

From: Chelsea Girardot
To: [Lindsay, Susie](#)
Subject: Public Comment for Legislative Finance Committee Oct 4,5
Date: Tuesday, October 03, 2017 10:34:47 PM

For the past couple of years I worked for The Center for Children and Families, most recently my role was a case manager for the families in The Second Chance Home. This program is amazing, and having to tell the women and children living in the home that they can no longer stay there would be devastating. I know you've seen the numbers and heard the emotional pleas, so I won't repeat them, but please as you go into session attempting to problem solve the budget crisis, don't forget about the individuals behind the numbers.

Add Tax to soda, junk food, hotels, fast food, whatever "unnecessary" items we can, I am more than willing to round up to the nearest dollar on every purchase I make to assist in keeping these imperative programs operating. I am no where near wealthy, but I am very willing to do my part and feel that the majority
Of people in my life feel the same
Way.

Respectfully,
Chelsea Girardot

Hon. Nancy Ballance, Chair
Legislative Finance Committee
Montana State Capitol
Helena, Montana

Dear Ms. Ballance,

My name is Matt Lautzenheiser, and I'm the Executive Director of the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula. I'm contacting you in regards to the proposed cuts to the budget of the Montana Historical Society. As a similar organization dedicated to preserving and sharing the rich heritage and history of Montana, I strongly urge you to preserve funding for the Montana Historical Society. Their mission, like ours, is to preserve our local and state history for the education and enjoyment of Montana's citizens. This is a very important responsibility that the Historical Museum and the State Historical Society feel is incredibly important to our state. Our history provides the unique fabric that separates Montana from other states and make it such a special place to live and work.

The impacts of a cut in funding, would mean a drastic cut to the services that the Montana Historical Society offers the public. It would mean an end to Capitol tours, elimination of public programs, and the a drastic cut to many other programs that the Historical Society offers the public.

Throughout its history, the Montana Historical Society has been a leader in the Montana museum community, and an important resource to schools, libraries, archives, and historic preservation organizations throughout the state. In addition to their work within the education and museum communities, the Montana Historical Society is an important tourism driver, bringing in additional revenue for Montana.

As a leader in the museum community, and a proud citizen of the state of Montana, I encourage you to maintain funding for the Montana Historical Society. We are a better state because of the work they are doing. Please allow them to continue to make our state great.

Sincerely,

Matt Lautzenheiser, Executive Director
Historical Museum at Fort Missoula County
3400 Captain Rawn Way
Missoula, MT 59804
Phone (406)-258-3471
www.fortmissoulamuseum.org

Twodot Land & Livestock Co.

Since 1908
William P. Jones President
PO Box 769
Harlowton, MT. 59036

October 3, 2017

Hon, Nancy Ballance, Chair.
Legislative Finance Committee
Montana State Capitol
Helena, MT

I am a rancher, rural museum member, former Gallatin History Museum Executive Director and a historian and have a deep appreciation for the services, programs, archives and collections housed at the Montana Historical Society.

Due to HB 2 and SB 261 imposed reductions, staff at MHS has been reduced by 25% with 8 laid off and 7 positions unfilled for a total of 15. General Fund appropriation has been reduced by 25.7% with a reduction of over \$1 million per year. Public education programs and tours have been eliminated.

Any further reduction in funds would be catastrophic to the Mission of the Historical Society. Any more key employee losses would take decades to replace the institutional knowledge lost and some of that would be lost forever.

Montana needs to work together in a bipartisan effort to stop the bleeding at the Montana Historical Society. Being as the MHS is one of the state's smallest agencies, any further reduction would decimate its effectiveness and would have minimal effect on the overall picture of the State of Montana finances.

By law MHS is required to collect, house, protect and share Montana history and its objects. Let us not put that in jeopardy now.

Regards,
(Signed electronically)
William P. Jones

Hon. Nancy Ballance, Chair

Legislative Finance Committee

Montana State Capitol

Helena, Montana

Dear Nancy Ballance:

Good afternoon! My name is Sabre Moore and I am the Executive Director of a museum in southeastern Montana and a member of the Museum Association of Montana Board of Directors. I am writing to provide information about the Montana Historical Society so that it may aid in the work done tomorrow by the Legislative Finance Committee.

In addition to providing stewardship for a number of Montana's historical objects, the Montana Historical Society has been an important resource to schools, libraries, museum, archives, historic preservation professionals, and historical societies in every county of Montana. The MHS is highly respected for its collections and is a strong contributor to our tourism economy.

Due to the reductions imposed in HB 2 and SB 261, the staff of the MHS and services have been significantly diminished. Staff has been reduced by 15 positions or unfilled to date, with 8 people laid off. Total staff has been reduced by 25% and the General Fund has been reduced over \$1 million per year (a reduction of 25.7%). As a result, research center and museum public hours have been reduced -- which will have a direct effect on visitation to the museum and academic scholarship. Other programs and services have been eliminated, including public educational programs and guided tours of the capitol.

This is one of Montana state government's smallest agencies. The impacts of cuts already in place have been enormous. An additional 10% reduction would only be accomplished through additional reduction in force and subsequent reduction in services to all of us in Montana, yet provide no significant relief from the overall budget shortfall.

We hope that the Governor and Legislature would work together in a bipartisan fashion to identify the best possible solutions to this revenue shortfall and stay open to all possibilities.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sabre Moore

Hon. Nancy Balance, Chair
Legislative Finance Committee
Montana State Capitol
Helena, Montana

Hon. Nancy Balance,


I am a Montana native, Museum of history curator and board member of the Museum's Association of Montana. Following my education as an artist in Oregon, I returned to Montana where I found a home in the history field, one unlike any other industry I have ever been a part of. Montana is extremely proud of its heritage and the people who work in the field are some of the most knowledgeable and accessible professionals. The Montana Historical Society is an integral part of that home and a vastly important resource for information both for those seeking out their heritage and for all of the smaller historical societies across the state who are doing their best to preserve what makes Montana so great.

Museums are a strong economic force in this State, and we all depend on organizations like the Montana Historical Society for guiding us, so our historic resources are preserved for future generations. The Research Center and Museum public hours have already been cut, tours to the Capital have been discontinued and worst of all public educational programs have been eliminated.

This is one of Montana state government's smallest agencies. The impacts of cuts already in place have been enormous. An additional 10% reduction would only be accomplished through additional reduction in force and subsequent reduction in services to all of us in Montana, yet provide no significant relief from the overall budget shortfall.

We hope that the Governor and Legislature would work together in a bipartisan fashion to identify the best possible solutions to this revenue shortfall and stay open to ALL possibilities.

Thank You,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Kelly Hartman', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Kelly Hartman

Curator Gallatin History Museum

Director Cooke City Montana Museum

Board Member of Museum's Association of Montana

From: Conrad Stanley
To: [Lindsay, Susie](#)
Subject: MT Library
Date: Wednesday, October 04, 2017 8:54:25 AM

Legislative Finance Committee

I am writing to request that you exempt the Montana State Library from further budget cuts. The direct feed from the library of the parcel fabric aids us in notifying landowners of pipeline maintenance. Further it provides an extra layer of protection in our spill response system. As such, it aids and protects the citizens of Montana.

As I understand it, they have already had their budget reduced by more than 30%. This has resulted in the loss of staff and may jeopardize the ability to provide information to our company and other companies operating in your state. Again, I respectfully request that you exempt the state library from further budget cuts.

Respectfully submitted,

Conrad

Conrad Stanley
Belle Fourche Pipeline
GIS Server Specialist
PO Drawer 2360
350 Big Horn
Casper, WY 82602
307-266-0479

Community Forum Summary October 3, 2017

Over 60 Billings community members came together to discuss proposed Montana budget cuts. A panel of representatives from local agencies shared potential consequences of cuts. Afterwards, the group explored potential solutions and strategies. Participants were given 2 votes to cast for their top choices.

The strongest overall theme that emerged from the event was a need to **increase efficiency**. These strategies received over 50 votes in the following areas.

Increase Collaboration: Included collaboration between non-profit groups as well as non-profits and local and state government. Suggestions included creating ongoing communication channels.

Reduce Duplication: Included increasing efficiency by reducing duplication of services, efforts, and resources. Specific examples included co-location of agencies, shared resources, shared systems, and merging of agencies or state departments.

System Changes: The need to change how the system works included strategies to develop and implement long-term cost saving strategies, reduce waste, and explore new methods such as performance based contracting and strategies to fund firefighting.

Below are results of the solutions generated by the group.

Budget Cuts		
Ideas Generated	Votes	Comments
Reduce Rainy Day Fund Required Amount.	7	The required funding amount could be temporarily lowered to save several millions.
Maintain Current Proposed Cuts.		
Develop Less Painful Cuts.		
Common Application for Assistance.		Reduce duplication of effort by creating a common, shared application for all assistance programs.
Identify Waste and Increase Efficiency.	5	
Merge Childcare Licensing & Childcare Standards Divisions.		
Reduce Government Departments.	8	Reduce duplication and increase efficiency by merging and combining departments that could share resources and costs.
Salary Cuts for all Shared Equally.		Includes all government officials taking an equal pay cut.

Increase Revenue		
Ideas Generated	Votes	Comments
Tobacco Tax.	23	May be a temporary increase – Revenue could be used to develop and implement long term cost saving strategies.

Raise Taxes on the Wealthy.	5	Could include a tax rate increase for persons making \$500,000 or more annually.
Local Options Sales Tax.	5	For Billings specifically.
Propose changes as "Temporary."	1	Seen as a way to gain bipartisan support and adjust to future revenue changes.
Implement participant fees for social services.		Include a sliding scale.
Wine Tax.	3	
Tourism Tax.	7	Increase taxes on tourist related services.
Pop Tax.	2	
Luxury tax on second homes.	7	Would generate revenue from out of state people purchasing vacation homes.

Other		
Ideas Generated	Votes	Comments
More conversations outside of crisis.	2	Increase communication between state government and non-profits.
Reduce duplication of services.	24	
Managed care.		
Peer support services.	1	Can be conducted at a much lower cost.
Create a behavioral health services delivery plan.	1	May be a way to increase efficiency.
Management Services Agreement.		
Business & Social program work together more.		
Increase collaboration.	5	
Telehealth to rural communities.	1	
Universal child assessment.		May reduce duplication of services.
Co-Location of agencies	2	
Data integration.	1	May reduce duplication and increase efficiency if all programs had the same data system rather than paying for separate systems.
Review how we fund firefighting.	3	
Performance based contracting.	1	Payment would be tied to performance and outcomes. May increase efficiency.
Use city funds to develop and implement community cost savings strategies.		
Increase communication between the city and non-profits.		
Address drug use.	2	
Increase community awareness and education of proposed cuts.	2	

October 4, 2017

To: Members of the Legislative Finance Committee

Re: Public comment on proposed cuts to the public safety budget

I recently retired, and my professional career was spent in human services in Billings. I spent the last four years working in the Passages Women's Center (a program of Alternatives, Inc.) in the Prerelease Program. My major responsibilities included helping the residents find and keep jobs.

This past Saturday at the Billings Farmers' Market, I recognized an attractive young woman working at a booth where I stopped to buy produce. She recognized me as well and a minute later we remembered each other from Passages—she had been in the prelease program over two years ago. She had changed since I had last seen her. She looked, not just fabulous, but also vibrant and happy. She excitedly told me that she had just gotten a promotion with the employer where she started working a few weeks after entering prerelease at Passages. She was obviously so proud, not just of her promotion, but being self-sufficient and independent. And she told me how important her time at Passages was to her journey to this new life that she loved. She effusively expressed her gratitude for all the help and support she received from me and other staff at Passages.

It continues to bring me joy when I accidentally run into a Passages "alumni." And it never fails when I do, that they take the time to tell me how important Passages and the caring staff were to their recovery and success. We usually don't hear their success stories because they are in the community quietly living their lives and being productive citizens. But this program works!

As you deliberate, please do not cut community correction programs that work.

Thank you.

Adela Awner
1109 Delphinium Drive
Billings, MT 59102

From: Lorinne Burke
To: [Lindsay, Susie](#)
Subject: Public Comment for Legislative Finance Committee Oct 4,5
Date: Wednesday, October 04, 2017 12:49:59 PM

I would like to see taxes on Sodas, Alcohol and Tobacco. This would generate some much needed revenue for the state and drive down use by minors of at least beer/wine and cigarettes.

Since revenue from tobacco will not be steady, it should be used for one time projects to raise governmental efficiency, condense departments, and streamline processes.

Child Protective Services cannot afford 10% cuts at this time. They are overburdened already by a surge in children whose parents are using drugs. We had 14 dead children last year that were involved in the CPS system. We will have more this year. How many more will increase or decrease depending on the time social workers have to check on cases, children and portion out services to families in need.

Thank you,

S. Lorinne Burke, MMFT, LCPC, PC
Northwest Counseling

From: [Carlson, Amy](#)
To: [Lindsay, Susie](#)
Subject: FW: testimony for today's committee meeting
Date: Wednesday, October 04, 2017 2:09:00 PM

From: Davies, Liz [mailto:ldavies@communitymed.org]
Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2017 1:50 PM
To: Carlson, Amy
Subject: testimony for today's committee meeting

To Members of the Legislative Finance Committee,
Please accept this letter in response to proposed spending reductions in the DPHHS budget, specifically regarding Community First Choice and the Big Sky and SDMI Medicaid Waiver programs.

I understand that the funding appropriated to the Department by the Legislature requires budget reductions due to revenue shortfalls. However, achieving these reductions by cutting essential Medicaid services is a huge disservice to the people who rely on these services the most. It is also a health and safety issue that may have serious consequences for our State's most vulnerable populations.

The Legislature should be well aware of the workforce shortage in our State, especially in the healthcare field. Personal care agencies are already hard pressed to find quality, reliable employees who are willing to work for low wages, often without health insurance or other benefits. We are entrusting the care of our most vulnerable community members – the elderly and people with disabilities – to providers who are being sent the message that DPHHS does not value them. Cuts to programs like Healthcare for Healthcare Workers and essential Medicaid services such as Community First Choice and Waiver will force agencies to reduce wages for their employees or even lay off workers to absorb the spending reductions.

Lay offs result in fewer people in the workforce paying income taxes, buying homes and paying property taxes, participating in the economy and contributing to the State's revenue. Those individuals then become more reliant on public assistance programs like TANF, SNAP and Medicaid – the very programs that will suffer as a result of these cuts. Fewer caregivers providing services in home and community based settings like assisted living facilities also puts more people at risk for institutionalization, which is the least cost effective option.

Please consider other ways to achieve necessary budget reductions including increasing revenue. It is fiscally irresponsible and unethical to expect the disability community to shoulder the burden in order to avoid raising taxes on the wealthy.

Thank you for your consideration,

Liz Davies, LCSW
Supervisor

Home & Community Based Services - Community Medical Center
2685 Palmer St, Ste D
Missoula, MT 59808
Ph: (406) 327-4589
F: (406) 327-4484

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From: [Carlson, Amy](#)
To: [Lindsay, Susie](#)
Subject: FW: MT budget concerns - Support of Early Intervention Programs
Date: Wednesday, October 04, 2017 2:09:12 PM

From: Alena Furlong [mailto:racheterale@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2017 1:35 PM
To: rnewbar@gmail.com; elliehillhd94@gmail.com
Cc: Carlson, Amy
Subject: MT budget concerns - Support of Early Intervention Programs

Hello,

I'm not sure if I'm contacting in the correct manner or appropriate people so I would appreciate you passing along the message to colleagues if necessary. I'm emailing to let you know I strongly support early intervention programs for our at-risk children and am appalled at the current discussions to completely discontinue services due to budgetary restraints. I know the situation is dire and many worthwhile programs are being reduced or eliminated but to remove services completely from a population group which is our future, and can't advocate for themselves, seems short-sighted and frankly just cruel to those children and families to whom these services are literally a lifeline.

Please continue this program and services! My son has benefited from them immensely and I know countless others do as well. Thanks for all your work and I hope you can find a better solution.

Sincerely,
Alena Furlong
119 Crestview Lane
Missoula, MT 59803
402-637-4967

Testimony to the Legislative Finance Committee
October 4, 5, 2017
State Capitol, Room 102
Chair Nancy Balance

My name is Virjeanna Brown and I live in Belgrade. I am a full-time caregiver of someone who has significant medical needs and depends on Medicaid and Personal Care Attendants. She is one of 100,000 who are disabled in the state of Montana. I will no repeat her story as you will hear many like it today.

Death by a thousand cuts. This has got to stop. I was raised that you work hard, pay your dues and you help those who cannot help themselves. What is going on with the budget cuts is political and lives are literally at stake.

It is time for a special session and to raise revenues. Many bills were introduced that would have helped raise revenue to stave off these horrible cuts. The majority party voted against these common sense bills. Make no mistake, if these cuts go through and people lose their lives, there will be hell to pay. It's time to do the right thing and work to improve the quality of life for those of us who live in Montana, and to contribute in paying their taxes.

Virjeanna Brown
406-388-1833
720 Northern Pacific Ave
Belgrade, MT 59714

Testimony to the Legislative Finance Committee
October 4, 5, 2017

Madam Chair, members of the Committee for the record my name is Deborah Swingley and it's my honor to serve as the Executive Director and CEO of the Montana Council on Developmental Disabilities located here in Helena.

I come before you today to emphatically request that you reject the recommended elimination of the Montana Youth Leadership Forum and the Youth Transitions program. Simply put these programs improve the lives of Montana's youth with disabilities.

The Montana Council on Developmental Disabilities funded this program for the 1st five years. This summer was Forum number 18. The skills learned and leadership developed through these programs has grown exponentially across MT. Please retain these programs at full funding levels.

Thank you

Deborah Swingley, ED/CEO
Montana Council on Developmental Disabilities
2714 Billings Avenue
Helena, MT 59601

406-443-4371
406-439-5077 (cell)

From: Bharat and Linda
To: [Lindsay, Susie](#)
Subject: Special session
Date: Thursday, October 05, 2017 9:50:48 AM

To the members of the Legislative Finance Committee (c/o Ms. Lindsay),

Please consider requesting a special legislative session to adjust our budget and reconsider our resources for finding 7888 additional dollars. Our public services are more than strapped at current levels and we cannot afford to see them cut further. As a taxpayer myself, I am willing to help my fellow Montanans in need. Please take actions for a special session.

Sincerely,

Linda Halstead-Acharya
Columbus, MT
bacha76070@aol.com
Home: 406.322.5262
Cell: 406.321.0693

From: Arleen Boyd
To: [Lindsay, Susie](#)
Subject: Special session of
Date: Thursday, October 05, 2017 10:22:43 AM

To: Legislative Finance Committee
From Arleen Boyd, Fishtail Montana (59028)
April 5, 2017

I am watching your meeting on line and thank you for your service.

Please support a special session of the legislature. The process the legislature put in place to cut government revenues in Montana clearly will result in devastating public service cuts — on top of cuts made by House Bill 2 and Senate Bill 261.

The cuts are extreme and it makes no sense to implement reductions that can only come out of budget areas we need most. It is the Legislature's responsibility to do its job and not pretend that the governor is making "choices" to cut our services. We know that there is no "choice" here for the governor given the size of the required cuts and his constrained options for implementing cuts.

Please do your work: have a special session, publicly dig into the actual impacts of the cuts, and share the impact information with Montana citizens before requiring reduction in investments and services and we need.

Respectfully,

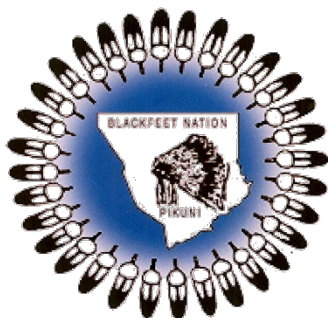
Arleen Boyd
Fishtail,, Montana (406-328-6645)

From: [Carlson, Amy](#)
To: [Lindsay, Susie](#)
Subject: FW: Budget cuts
Date: Thursday, October 05, 2017 11:36:51 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: SUZY GILBERTSON [<mailto:mtnwoods@1internet.us>]
Sent: Thursday, October 5, 2017 10:25 AM
To: Carlson, Amy
Subject: Budget cuts

Friend is single mother who can't work--mental tramma of abuse. Resulting divorce but has child who was sexually abused. Both dependent on mental, medical, and financial assistance. Don't cut monies to assist those who can't get back to independence temporarily or permanently because of circumstances beyond their control. How fortunate for us that don't need the help.



BLACKFEET NATION

P. O. BOX 850 BROWNING, MONTANA 59417

(406) 338-7521 FAX (406) 338-7530

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Harry Barnes, Chairman
Terry J. Tatsey, Vice-Chairman
Tyson Running Wolf, Secretary
Tinsuwella Bird Rattler, Treasurer

BLACKFEET TRIBAL BUSINESS COUNCIL

Timothy Davis
Harry Barnes
Joseph "Joe" McKay
Nelse St. Goddard
Terry J. Tatsey
Tyson T. Running Wolf
Carl D. Kipp
Iliff "Scott" Kipp
Roland Kennerly Jr.

October 4, 2017

Legislative Finance Committee

P.O. Box 20171

Helena, Montana 59620-1711

RE: Letter of Support
DNRC – Flathead Basin Commission

Dear Chair Balance and Members of the Committee:

This letter serves to support the funding necessary to maintain the Flathead Basin Commission as an active, viable, and necessary part of the State of Montana government.

Good Morning. My name is Dona Rutherford, I am the Blackfeet Nation Director of Fish and Wildlife. Prior to taking my current position with the Tribe, I worked for 25 plus years in the National Park Service with the last seven in my back yard Glacier National Park (GNP) as a District Ranger on the east side of the Park. During my tenure with GNP, Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) increasing became a significant concern for Park managers, and the Park, working in partnership with the Flathead Basin Commission (FBC), developed a robust boat inspection program to better protect Park resources.

For the Blackfeet Nation, the concern regarding AIS is even more acute, as we only have one homeland, and our aquatic resources are the basis for all life on the Reservation. If our waters become fouled with invasive mussels, the loss of ecological and economic sustainability will be a severe. And it is important to note that although discussions surrounding AIS often focus on the loss of fisheries and tourism revenues, the impacts of invasive mussels will be felt up and

down the food chain as mussels ultimately cause toxic blue-green algae blooms which in turn, pollute drinking water supplies for both humans and animals such as waterfowl, raptors, bison and many other species.

So, what does AIS have to do with the FBC? Three years ago, the FBC approached the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council with a request to partner on AIS prevention. After learning of the risks posed by AIS, Tribal Business Council signed an MOU with the FBC to partner on AIS prevention efforts in Blackfeet/Flathead country. The FBC assisted the Tribe in (1) writing the first AIS Ordinance for the Tribe in 2015; (2) standing up a robust AIS prevention program – by 2017 the Tribe had 3 operational mandatory inspection stations and two certification stations; (3) piloting a K-9 program at the inspection station in Browning in 2016; (4) developing the Blackfeet AIS monitoring program in 2016; and (5) obtaining funding for the Blackfeet AIS program, which allowed us to implement all key program components by 2017.

The Blackfeet Nation now has the most robust Tribal AIS program in the Northwest, if not the Country. In fact, outside of GNP and the City of Whitefish, the Tribe's program is second to none. We could not have mobilized so quickly to develop such a strong program without the financial and technical support of the FBC. This partnership serves as a model of what can be done when entities want to partner, and have the funding, political will and leadership to make such a partnership work.

The symbiotic nature of the relationship between the FBC and the Blackfeet Nation allows us to protect aquatic resources in both Blackfeet Country and the Flathead – and is broadly supported by democrat and republican legislators alike – a highly unique claim in the increasing polarized political world in which we find ourselves. But this broad support is a testament to the desire of local politicians and stakeholders to protect the unique resources of this area both now and for future generations.

The Blackfeet Nation signed the Stevens Treaty in 1855 which guaranteed to the Tribe certain territory, along with traditional hunting and fishing rights. The trust obligations under this Treaty cannot be fulfilled if our waters are fouled with zebra and quagga mussels. For the last three years, the FBC has assisted the Tribe in developing and implementing its AIS program. The technical and financial support provided by the FBC is invaluable, and it will be a material loss to the Tribe if resources for the FBC are cut as proposed. Therefore, we are respectfully requesting that the FBC funding for staff and operations remain intact, or is reduced by only 10%, in line with the cuts being imposed on most other agencies and departments.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dona Rutherford, Director
Blackfeet Nation Fish and Wildlife Department
P.O. Box 850
Browning, Montana 59417

From: [Carlson, Amy](#)
To: [Lindsay, Susie](#)
Subject: FW: LFC Comments
Date: Thursday, October 05, 2017 4:25:54 PM
Attachments: [PPAMT LFC comments 10.3.17.pdf](#)

From: Terrill, Laura [mailto:laura.terrill@ppmontana.org]

Sent: Thursday, October 5, 2017 3:49 PM

To: Carlson, Amy

Subject: LFC Comments

Amy: I submitted written comment at yesterday's Legislative Finance Committee meeting but, regrettably, forgot to include my contact information on the testimony. It is now included in the attached copy.

Thank you,
Laura



Laura Terrill

VP of External Affairs

Cell: 971.322.8640

Fax: 406.254.9330

www.plannedparenthood.org/montana

Find us on Facebook: [Planned Parenthood Advocates of Montana](#)

This email and any files transmitted with it from PPMT or PPAMT is confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom it is addressed. If you have received this email in error, please notify us immediately by replying to the message and deleting it from your computer. Thank you.



Legislative Finance Committee,
Room 110 Capitol Building
P.O. Box 201711
Helena, MT 59620-1711

October 5, 2017

Dear Chairman Ballance and Members of the Legislative Finance Committee,

I submit this letter on behalf of the Clark Fork Coalition (CFC), a non-profit organization with a 32-year history of protecting and restoring waters of the Clark Fork River basin. As a watchdog for the Clark Fork River system, CFC has worked with and relied upon the Flathead Basin Commission (FBC) to protect the invaluable waterways of the Flathead Basin. I write to urge you to protect adequate funding for the FBC.

Since 1983, the FBC has been charged with protecting the waters of the Flathead Basin. Today, over thirty years later, the FBC remains an effective branch of state government and has been enormously successful in carrying out its mission, in spite of its finite resources. While CFC has focused its recovery and protection efforts on the Clark Fork headwaters and middle and lower basins, we have relied on the FBC to ensure the Flathead basin is in good hands. In our experience, the FBC performs essential work and amplifies the larger effort to help entire Clark Fork River system become clean, healthy, and whole.

The proposed cuts to FBC's budget are drastic and potentially destabilizing to the point of shutting down FBC. Replacement funds from philanthropic sources are not readily available and would take time, resources, and capacity to secure. With stresses from climate change, invasive mussels, and growth and development bearing down on our waterways, delays or gaps in funding could have devastating impacts on the basin.

The Flathead Basin is renowned for its pristine rivers and spectacular recreation opportunities. The clean waters of the Flathead attract and sustain families and businesses, create healthy communities, foster a high quality of life, and contribute to Montana's \$5.8 billion outdoor recreation industry. When viewed in the context of the economic benefits of a clean and ecologically-functional Flathead Basin, the FBC's budget is an investment that pays enormous dividends.

On behalf of CFC and our 3,000 supporters basin-wide, I urge you to continue to support an adequately-funded FBC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen Knudsen".

Karen Knudsen
Executive Director

From: [Carlson, Amy](#)
To: [Lindsay, Susie](#)
Subject: FW: Suggestion for Montana budget reduction priority
Date: Friday, October 06, 2017 1:46:01 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: Dwight Van Brunt [<mailto:tuskhunter@gmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, October 6, 2017 1:45 PM
To: Carlson, Amy
Subject: Suggestion for Montana budget reduction priority

It seems the first order of responsible business - before a budget reduction/cut - would be to go after all past-due taxes with a vengeance!

The single best way to do this is to require that in order to purchase a hunting/fishing license in this state that all taxes be current. I strongly suspect that compliance would increase dramatically, as some many people live in Montana primarily for recreation. I am certainly among them.

(While you are at it, have MFWP change procedure so that all hunting and fishing licenses, permit applications and related services accept only personal check or credit card payments. No more cash or money order payments. This will force those who have fines/liens/judgements against them to rely on some type of banking arrangement to make these payments. That way, they cannot "hide" from legal obligations, including child support, by not having a bank account.)

Thanks for your time.

Respectfully submitted,

Dwight Van Brunt
Kalispell



Montana Association of Disaster & Emergency Services Coordinators

October 10, 2017

Representative Nancy Ballance, Chair
Legislative Finance Committee
P.O. Box 200400
Helena, MT 59620-0400

Dear Representative Ballance,

In light of the budget constraints being faced by the State of Montana, the Montana Association of Disaster and Emergency Services Coordinators wants to share our thoughts. Our members are concerned about the impact of budget reductions to Montana Disaster and Emergency Services (MT DES) proposing to reduce their field personnel by 50 percent. Over the last several weeks the Association's Executive Board has spoken several times about this situation and how we should comment.

We believe that the strength of Montana communities to be resilient during disasters is a direct correlation to having strong local emergency management programs, and that Montana Disaster and Emergency Services is critical in building and supporting local programs. We fear that Montana is entering a cycle where MT DES has been reduced to the point where it risks no longer being able to maintain essential current programs. Emergency Management is often easy to overlook when disasters aren't fresh and money needs to be saved, however emergency management programs are long term investments that can't be created on the fly when something bad happens.

In 1997 a performance audit (97P-03) on emergency management in Montana was conducted following several large flooding years. While 20 years old, this report is still very representative of emergency management across Montana in many ways. The auditors largely focused on Montana Disaster and Emergency Service's role in supporting local emergency management programs as the best method of ensuring Montana's resilience. To this end, the report highlighted the effectiveness and critical role played by field based state personnel now known as District Field Officers. The audit identified the need to expand the program to the current six personnel in order to effectively perform the duties and prepare Montana for response and recovery to disasters.

The Montana Association of Disaster and Emergency Services Coordinators asked the Association Vice Presidents to poll their districts with the question, "*Based on the assumption that MT DES can no longer afford to provide all the services they offer today, what do you view as the most important (to your county) services that you would prefer be maintained?*" The overwhelming response was that the District Field Officer Program is the most critical program the state provides to counties and tribal nations. The local jurisdictions, especially smaller ones, view the field officers as critical to moving their programs forward in preparing their communities and supporting them when an incident occurs.

We understand that the Governor's Office has recommended not implementing MT DES's proposed reduction in field personnel, and the Association concurs. The Association asks that you take our concerns into consideration as you work through the Governor's proposed reductions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Patrick Lonergan", is written over a horizontal line.

Patrick Lonergan, President
(406) 582-2395

Agency Change Package Detail

Department: 67010 - DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS

Version: 2019F0667010

Program: 21

Type: NP

Status: Included

Number: 67010

Group: None

Description: Proposed Reduction

Request Expenditures

		<u>Line Item</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>Biennium Total</u>
61098	UNALLOCATED PERSONAL SERVICES		(\$82,967)	(\$82,967)	(\$165,934)
	First Level Subtotal		(\$82,967)	(\$82,967)	(\$165,934)
62098	UNALLOCATED OPERATING EXPENSE		(\$33,600)	(\$33,600)	(\$67,200)
	First Level Subtotal		(\$33,600)	(\$33,600)	(\$67,200)
Total Request Expenditures			(\$116,567)	(\$116,567)	(\$233,134)

Request Funding

		<u>Line Item</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>Biennium Total</u>
01100	General Fund	0	(\$116,567)	(\$116,567)	(\$233,134)
	Fund Type Subtotal		(\$116,567)	(\$116,567)	(\$233,134)
Total Request Funding			(\$116,567)	(\$116,567)	(\$233,134)

Description and Justification

DES will reduce their program by \$116,567. The program will reduce operating expenses by \$33,600 and \$82,967 in personnel services. This will impact an additional \$116,567 in federal matching funds. The cuts will be made in field office personnel and operating costs.

From: [Hom, Fong](#)
To: [Lindsay, Susie](#)
Subject: FW: public comment: cuts to programs for caseworkers and caregivrs
Date: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 9:42:47 AM

Another email....

Fong

From: Cannon, Courtney
Sent: Wednesday, October 04, 2017 10:05 AM
To: Hom, Fong <fhom@mt.gov>
Subject: FW: public comment: cuts to programs for caseworkers and caregivrs

Public comment below.

Courtney Cannon
Receptionist
Legislative Services Division
Main Line 406-444-3064
Direct Line 406-444-4871
courtneycannon@mt.gov

From: maureen neitzling [mailto:maureen_neitzling@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 04, 2017 9:56 AM
To: Cannon, Courtney <courtneycannon@mt.gov>
Subject: public comment: cuts to programs for caseworkers and caregivrs

My name isMaureen Neitzling and I live in □alispell. My husband and I have a daughter who lives in one of the group homes of Flathead Industries for the □andicapped. In fact, we helped to organize and establish Flathead Industries.

□ e are very concerned about the proposed cuts to the budget to case managers, caregivers and programs for the developmentally disabled and respectfully urge our legislators not to make these cuts that affect our most vulnerable citizens.

Thank you,

Maureen Neitzling

From: [Hom, Fong](#)
To: [Lindsay, Susie](#)
Subject: FW: Public Comment on Budget Cuts
Date: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 9:41:57 AM

During the meeting, Susan forwarded this to my email. Thought you might like to have this.

Fong

From: Fox, Susan
Sent: Wednesday, October 04, 2017 1:15 PM
To: Hom, Fong <fhom@mt.gov>
Subject: FW: Public Comment on Budget Cuts

For the record for LFC. Susan

Susan Byorth Fox
Exec Dir, Legislative Services
(406) 444-3066
sfox@mt.gov

From: Patti Jacques [<mailto:dpjacques1@outlook.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, October 04, 2017 12:43 PM
To: Jones, Llew <Sen.Llew.Jones@mt.gov>; Sen Edie McClafferty (edie.mcclafferty@gmail.com) <edie.mcclafferty@gmail.com>; Sen Ryan Osmundson (ryanosmundson@gmail.com) <ryanosmundson@gmail.com>; Rep Nancy Ballance (nancyballance@aol.com) <nancyballance@aol.com>; Rep Kimberly Dudik (kimberly.dudik@gmail.com) <kimberly.dudik@gmail.com>; Holmlund, Kenneth <Rep.Ken.Holmlund@mt.gov>; Rep Kelly McCarthy (kelly@bigskytech.net) <kelly@bigskytech.net>
Cc: Fox, Susan <sfox@mt.gov>; Hertz, Adam <Rep.Adam.Hertz@mt.gov>; Rep. Alan Doane (alandoane@midrivers.com) <alandoane@midrivers.com>; Redfield, Alan <Rep.Alan.Redfield@mt.gov>; Olsen, Andrea <Rep.Andrea.Olsen@mt.gov>; Rep Austin Knudsen (austinfohouse@yahoo.com) <austinfohouse@yahoo.com>; Usher, Barry <Rep.Barry.Usher@mt.gov>; Rep Becky Beard (becky4hd80@blackfoot.net) <becky4hd80@blackfoot.net>; Harris, Bill <Rep.Bill.Harris@mt.gov>; Brown, Bob <Rep.Bob.Brown@mt.gov>; Brown, Bob <Rep.Bob.Brown@mt.gov>; Tschida, Brad <Rep.Brad.Tschida@mt.gov>; Hamlett, Bradley <Rep.Bradley.Hamlett@mt.gov>; Rep Bridget Smith (repbsmith@gmail.com) <repbsmith@gmail.com>; Glimm, Carl <Rep.Carl.Glimm@mt.gov>; Mortensen, Dale <Rep.Dale.Mortensen@mt.gov>; Fern, Dave <Rep.Dave.Fern@mt.gov>; Rep Donald W Jones (donjonesmt2@gmail.com) <donjonesmt2@gmail.com>; Rep Ellie Hill Smith (elliehillhd94@gmail.com) <elliehillhd94@gmail.com>; Mandeville, Forrest <Rep.Forrest.Mandeville@mt.gov>; Rep Frank Garner (frankgarnerhd7@gmail.com) <frankgarnerhd7@gmail.com>; Kipp, George <Rep.George.Kipp@mt.gov>; Pierson, Gordon <Rep.Gordon.Pierson@mt.gov>; Rep Greg Hertz (greghertz11@gmail.com)

<greghertz11@gmail.com>; OHara, James <Rep.James.OHara@mt.gov>; Ellis, Janet
<Rep.Janet.Ellis@mt.gov>; Rep Jean Price (jeanbigskybigwin@gmail.com)
<jeanbigskybigwin@gmail.com>; Essmann, Jeff <JEssmann@mt.gov>; Jenny Eck
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<lynchryan@gmail.com>; Rep Scott Staffanson (scottstaffanson@gmail.com)
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<wyliegaltformt@gmail.com>; Perry, Zac <Rep.Zac.Perry@mt.gov>; Rep Zach Brown
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<dansalomon12@gmail.com>; Sen David Howard (sendavidhoward@gmail.com)
<sendavidhoward@gmail.com>; Senator Diane Sands (sensorsands@gmail.com)
<sensorsands@gmail.com>; Sen Dick Barrett (rnewbar@gmail.com) <rnewbar@gmail.com>; Kary,
Douglas <Sen.Doug.Kary@mt.gov>; Sen Duane Ankney (goodwind1.duane@gmail.com)
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<goodwind1.duane@gmail.com>; Sen Edie McClafferty (edie.mcclafferty@gmail.com)
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<sfredthomas@yahoo.com>; Vuckovich, Gene <Sen.Gene.Vuckovich@mt.gov>; Sen Gordon Vance
(vancesd34@gmail.com) <vancesd34@gmail.com>; Sen Jeffrey Welborn (jeffwelborn@hotmail.com)
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<Sen.Jill.Cohenour@mt.gov>; Pomnichowski, Jennifer <Sen.JP@mt.gov>; Regier, Keith
<Sen.Keith.Regier@mt.gov>; Whitford, Lea <Sen.Lea.Whitford@mt.gov>; Jones, Llew
<Sen.Llew.Jones@mt.gov>; Sen Margaret Margie MacDonald (macmargaret@gmail.com)
<macmargaret@gmail.com>; Blasdel, Mark <Sen.Mark.Blasdel@mt.gov>; Sen Mark Blasdel
(mblasdel@bresnan.net) <mblasdel@bresnan.net>; McNally, Mary <Sen.Mary.McNally@mt.gov>;

Lang, Mike <Sen.Mike.Lang@mt.gov>; Swandal, Nels <Sen.Nels.Swandal@mt.gov>; Webb, Roger <webb4mt@hotmail.com>; Sen Ryan Osmundson (ryanosmundson@gmail.com) <ryanosmundson@gmail.com>; Sales, Scott <Sen.Scott.Sales@mt.gov>; Fitzpatrick, Steve <Sen.Steve.Fitzpatrick@mt.gov>; Facey, Tom <TFacey@mt.gov>; Sen Tom Richmond (tomrichmondmt@gmail.com) <tomrichmondmt@gmail.com>; SK Rossi (rossis@aclumontana.org) <rossis@aclumontana.org>; Steve Cape (mtc4sj@gmail.com) <mtc4sj@gmail.com>; O'Connell, Sue <SOConnell@mt.gov>; Sydney Blair (SYDNEYB@center4mh.org) <SYDNEYB@center4mh.org>; mrmac570@me.com; Hillman-Glazier, Trista <THillman-Glazier@mt.gov>; Sandra Mihelish <2Mihelishes@Bresnan.net>; Sandra Blair <sblaircpa@qwestoffice.net>; (rosiej@jenningsmt.com) <rosiej@jenningsmt.com>; Ron Ehli (montanamutt@montana.com) <montanamutt@montana.com>; Webb, Roger <webb4mt@hotmail.com>; Ferry, Richard A. <Richard.Ferry@va.gov>; Weiss, Rachel <RWeiss@mt.gov>; Murdo, Patricia <PMURDO@mt.gov>; Martin, Novelene <nomartin@mt.gov>; Moffie Funk (moffiefunk@gmail.com) <moffiefunk@gmail.com>; mikemenahan@yahoo.com; Michelle Cuddy <MICHELLEC@center4mh.org>; Matt Kuntz (matt@namimt.org) <matt@namimt.org>; Mary North (mnorth@wocmt.com) <mnorth@wocmt.com>; tope_linda@yahoo.com; Kris Hansen <krishansen33@gmail.com>; Schroeck, John <JSchroeck2@mt.gov>; 'Hon John Warner' <johnwarner@bresnan.net>; John Wilkinson <montanawilk@gmail.com>; Katharin Kelker <kathyk4montana@gmail.com>; Kathy McGowan (Kathy@smithandmcgowan.com) <Kathy@smithandmcgowan.com>; John C Board <jcboard54@gmail.com>; Jim Smith <jsmith@helenamt.gov>; jim@mtpeernetwork.org; jdaly@wmmhc.org; Janice Sanderson (janice@disabilityrightsmt.org) <janice@disabilityrightsmt.org>; Janice Reichelt (jreichelt@pchospital.us) <jreichelt@pchospital.us>; James Gustafson <JAMESG@center4mh.org>; jack shifflett <jackshifflett@hotmail.com>; Bullock, Governor <governor@mt.gov>; Erin McGowan Finchman (erin@smithandmcgowan.com) <erin@smithandmcgowan.com>; Eric Griffin (EGriffin@lccountymt.gov) <EGriffin@lccountymt.gov>; Nyland, Dennis <DNyland@mt.gov>; Ladd, Daniel <DLadd@mt.gov>; Brensdal, Bruce <bbrensdal@mt.gov>; Brensdal, Bruce <bbrensdal@mt.gov>; Brian Barnes (bbarnes@mt.gov) <bbarnes@mt.gov>; Beth (Beth@disabilityrightsmt.org) <Beth@disabilityrightsmt.org>; bernie@disabilityrightsmt.org; Carter, Annette <ancarter@mt.gov>; customconcreteasap@gmail.com; Cotton, Adrienne <ACotton2@mt.gov>

Subject: Public Comment on Budget Cuts

Hello Senators and Representatives, I cannot attend the Legislative Finance Committee meeting but would like to give public comment. Please pass this along to Legislative Finance Committee thank you.

Suggestion – First all legislators receiving Montana State Public Employees State Health Insurance should forego this benefit and give the funds back to the General Fund. As a taxpayer, and advocate for the most vulnerable citizens of our State, citizens with mental illnesses, these people should be the first to make sure their services are not cut. If through the means of cutting the legislators health insurance benefits provided by the state taxpayers, then this should be done first. Remember you chose to become a legislator, these citizens with disabilities did not choose their plight. You will be saving taxpayers a lot of general fund money.

Secondly, increase the rental car sales and use tax up to 10%. Use 1% for housing vouchers for the disabled and those in criminal justice system that are disabled, use 1% for state workers who will be losing their jobs or reduction in salaries to help pay for the additional assistance in the welfare programs when they go to apply for food stamps or use towards their rent payments or house payment they can't make or energy assistance to keep the lights and heat on. Take balance of 4% and put towards general fund.

Patti Jacques

Advocate for people with Mental Illnesses in Criminal Justice system

Dpjacques1@outlook.com

-----Original Message-----

From: bbaker [<mailto:bbaker@blackfoot.net>]

Sent: Thursday, November 02, 2017 8:27 AM

To: nancyballance@aol.com; Adams, Lenore <leadams@mt.gov>

Subject: Funding for Flathead Basin Commission re AIS

Nancy Ballance

Chairman, Legislative Finance Committee

I urge you to support the efforts of the Flathead Basin Commission in fighting aquatic invasive species in Flathead Lake. We have a house on Flathead Lake and have enjoyed the beauty and joy of being in and on the lake since 2003. If invasive mussels get into Flathead Lake it will prevent us from enjoying the lake. We have watched vehicles with boats drive by the inspection stations on our drive from Missoula to Polson.

Please support funding of this important effort. I urge you to support full and speedy implementation of all of the aquatic invasive species laws and a fair and equal distribution of budget cuts with continued funding for the Flathead Basin Commission staff.

Barbara Baker

7769 Missoula Go Cluster

Missoula, MT 59808

From: KD LINNEY [<mailto:linneymoss@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, November 08, 2017 5:01 PM

To: Bullock, Governor <governor@mt.gov>; nancyballance@aol.com; Adams, Lenore <leadams@mt.gov>

Subject: AIS laws, Flathead Basin Commission, budget cuts

As a farmer who irrigates, a lakefront property owner, and citizen of Montana and the west for many years I have been acutely aware of water quality and its impact. I have witnessed meetings of the Flathead Basin Commission, followed the rules for boat inspections, and treasured the water quality we enjoy. I have seen and read about the damage to the Midwest waterways, boats, irrigation, property values, and loss of fish habitat. I hope and pray for full implementation of our AIS laws, all preventative work needed, and continued funding for Flathead Basic Commission staff as you face budget cuts and decisions ahead. The impact of aquatic invasive species is almost beyond our understanding and can never be reversed.

Thank you for your attention and service to our state.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Linney
P. O. Box 209
Rollins, MT 59931
(406) 249-8793

From: maureen neitzling [mailto:maureen_neitzling@yahoo.com]

Sent: Wednesday, October 04, 2017 9:56 AM

To: Cannon, Courtney <courtneycannon@mt.gov>

Subject: public comment: cuts to programs for caseworkers and caregivrs

My name isMaureen Neitzling and I live in Kalispell. My husband and I have a daughter who lives in one of the group homes of Flathead Industries for the Handicapped. In fact, we helped to organize and establish Flathead Industries.

We are very concerned about the proposed cuts to the budget to case managers, caregivers and programs for the developmentally disabled and respectfully urge our legislators not to make these cuts that affect our most vulnerable citizens.

Thank you,

Maureen Neitzling

From: Jack and Rachel Potter [<mailto:jrepotter@centurytel.net>]
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2017 10:21 AM
To: nancyballance@aol.com; Adams, Lenore <leadams@mt.gov>
Subject: Flathead Basin Commission

Nancy Ballance
Chair, Legislative Budget Committee, and Members of the Legislative Finance Committee

Dear Ms. Balance,

I am writing to express my extreme disappointment and frustration at the recommendation to essentially eliminate the entire budget of the Flathead Basin Commission. When I was appointed to my second term by Governor Bullock, as a citizen member from Columbia Falls, there was no mention of the FBC "fulfilling its purpose". While there have been successes in the past, we are facing perhaps our greatest challenge with the potential invasion of aquatic invasive species. The legislature recognized this, and with the passage of House Bill 622, which was signed by the Governor, directed the FBC to begin a pilot program for enhanced protection of the Flathead Basin. Residents, partners on the FBC, and even those downstream of us in the Columbia River Basin were watching this with great interest. In the past, our Director, Caryn Miske has been very successful in raising grant money for AIS and other FBC projects. It would be incredibly shortsighted to eliminate the FBC now. We are also involved with numerous other issues from groundwater protection as the population grows, to rail corridor safety.

I urge you to recommend a more equitable cut, more in line with the overall 10% required at this time.

Thank you for your consideration and please share this with the other members of the Committee. I have also written Governor Bullock to share my thoughts.

Jack Potter
Citizen Member, Flathead Basin Commission
Columbia Falls, MT

Christopher E Clasby, MSW
5250 Keil Loop
Missoula, MT 59808
406-529-1265

October 3, 2017

Dear Montana Legislative Finance Committee:

I am writing to implore you to find ways to balance Montana's budget by generating revenue as you should already have done rather than solely cutting programs, especially DPHHS human service programs. The 2.99% Medicaid reimbursement rate cut is already significant, but the additional 10% cuts proposed will drastically threaten people's lives and right to live in community settings. It will also devastate Montana's medical system, eliminate many jobs, and force people into institutions, which will cost the state significantly more money than community services. I ask you to do your jobs – work together on nonpartisan solutions to benefit Montanans rather than hurt them. This 10% cut and its effects are on your shoulders and conscience if it passes.

As a quadriplegic, I have worked very hard to be off cash benefits, get educated, and work a full-time job with some help from DPHHS programs. Even with employer health insurance, I cannot afford to pay for all necessary long-term home services like personal care which isn't paid by other insurances. Passing additional 10% cuts to Community First Choice, Medicaid Waiver, and other Medicaid services will significantly threaten if not eliminate my ability to continue community living and trying to be productive.

As a social worker, I work every day with children, adults, and aging adults who rely on Montana DPHHS programs by no fault of their own. The currently proposed program cuts and budget cuts for remaining programs threatens every segment of Montana's population. Passing the proposed will leave thousands of Montanans no choice but to live in nursing homes, the State Hospital, MDC, or other institutional settings including mental health homes – which again will cost Montana significantly more money. Limited service funding will reduce care, which will increase necessary hospitalizations, legal interventions, and crisis interventions, which will again cost the state more money.

The proposed cuts are not good for Montanans, not good for our medical system and/or related employment, and not good for the state budget. Cutting these funds now will only increase future expenses and difficulties, so please make the right choice now rather than dealing with far greater budget issues and problems in the future.

Please vote against the 10% cuts and work across party lines to find ways to generate revenue. Please now show us your ability to lead and to improve Montana as you were elected to do.

Thank you
~Christopher Clasby



*Nurturing personal growth and supporting meaningful lives
for adults with disabilities since 1976*

10/4/17

Dear Sen. Wolkow,

I'm the Executive Director of Counterpoint, Inc. in Livingston. We provide an array of services to adults with disabilities in Park County. I want to advocate for the funding of Targeted Adult Case Management and for Children's Disability Services.

Adult case managers are the sole people who have no conflicts of interest as they advocate for the wellbeing of their clients with disabilities. They assist their clients to navigate the system and to make important life choices such as where to live and whom to contract with to receive necessary supportive services. Without case managers the adults with disabilities who we work for would be lost.

Children's disability services are an incredibly important part of a continuum of support as clients age and transition to adult services. When the people we work for have received support as children they transition to adults services as more developed and accomplished people.

I appreciate your work and consideration.

Sincerely,

David Eaton
Executive Director

October 4, 2017

To: Legislative Finance Committee

Name: Lesa Carnes

Representing: mental health clients

Section or area of concern: budget cuts

Comments:

I, and so many others, need our Mental Health Services in order to survive and have a life worth living. Case Management is essential to having a conducive life.

Without Case managers I would not be able to obtain food or my medicine. Also, I would not be able to go to doctor appointments or my therapist.

I need the services that Case management provides in order to keep living, to stay alive.

Please keep our Case Managers.

Thank You

October 4, 2017

To: Legislative Finance Committee

Name: DOUGLAS PRICE

Representing: ^{NDC}CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH

Section or area of concern: CASE MANAGERS

Comments:

WITH OUT CASE MANAGERS I WOULDN
GET TO MY APPOINTMENTS ON TIME
SO ~~MA~~ I'M SO GREATFULL TO HAVE ONE
THAT HELPS ME OUT AND TO HELP ME
FILL OUT PAPERS THAT I DONT UNDERSTAND
AND IF IT WASN'T ~~EDU~~ FOR DAY TREATMENT
I WOULDN'T HAVE NOTHING TO DO DOING
THE DAY STAFF HAS HELP ME OUT
SO MUCH IN GREAT FALLS IF WE LOSE
THE CENTER THERE IT WOULD BE
HORRIBLE NOT JUST FOR ME BUT A LOT OF
~~PEOPLE~~ PEOPLE SO PLEASE TAKE INTO
CONSIDERATION THAT WE HAVE FEELINGS
AND NEED THAT NEED TO BE DEALT WITH
AND THE CENTER IS A GREAT PLACE TO DO
THAT IT'S HELP ME AND LOT OF CLAIMANTS
LIKE ME SO PLEASE DON'T SHUT US DOWN
WE NEED CASE MANAGERS AND THE CENTER TO
HELP US

THANK YOU

October 4, 2017

To: Legislative Finance Committee

Name:

Donna Shull

Representing:

self

Section or area of concern:

budget cuts

Comments:

To generate revenue & prevent budget cuts, please raise alcohol & tobacco taxes.

Shame on the legislature for caving into the alcohol & tobacco lobbyists!

Instead they are willing to punish/cut services to the disabled, children, ~~sub~~ recovering substance abusers, etc.

What has happened to our moral obligation to care for each other?

Please do the ~~the~~ right thing!

October 4, 2017

To: Legislative Finance Committee

Name: Chris Brant

Representing: DPHHS Case Manager

Section or area of concern: DPHHS

Comments:

If I lose my Caseworker

How can I survive with my
Life in the Community it is very
Difficult

October 4, 2017

To: Legislative Finance Committee

Name: Heather Bergerson

Representing: Mental Health Services

Section or area of concern: Budget cuts

Comments:

I'm a concerned citizen who understands the impact of what budget cuts will do to the community. Members of the community who receive services in mental health will suffer when services are cut. These individuals can't or can't manage for help with housing, food, community resources and much more. Without services the community will see an increase in jail and state hospitals. Relapse in addictions and loss of housing will increase causing many more obstacles to live a stable, safe life. Not only will clients suffer but job loss on both sides. I work with individuals who have a mental illness and with the loss of employment, I myself could become homeless. My pay is not the best but I got in the field to help people with needs and to help them become a contributing member of society. I love what I do and the possibility of my clients losing services is heart breaking. I ask that you all can find other ways to raise money before giving up on our community + people. These cuts will lead to more problems and increased money issues.

October 4, 2017

To: Legislative Finance Committee

Name: Allycia Libonow Woods

Representing: Mental Health (Center for Mental Health)

Section or area of concern: Mental Health Cuts

Comments:

Please, come together & do not cut mental health care for Montanans. It will affect everyone in ways you can't even imagine. From increasing homelessness, to increasing the strain on jails & hospitals. The money for this needs to be found somewhere. Please do not let people fall through the cracks. Let's take care of the people the most vulnerable in our communities. Thank you.

October 4, 2017

To: Legislative Finance Committee

Name: David Munson

Representing: Part C Early Intervention

Section or area of concern: Elimination of " " " "

Comments:

Early Intervention reduces special education needs in later years

Montana would be the only state in nation without Part C early intervention. Puerto Rico and Guam have Part C early intervention. Montana would be like a third-world country regarding early intervention.

Families would need to move to another state (for services) or wait for their child to be of age for special education.

October 4, 2017

To: Legislative Finance Committee

Name: Charlene Porsild

Representing: MT History Fdn

Section or area of concern: CUTS TO HISTORICAL

Comments: SOCIETY.

See attached.

**Legislative Finance Committee
Wednesday October 4, 2017
1:00 pm, Room 102 in Capitol**

Mr Chair, Members of the Committee

My name is CHARLENE PORSELD SPELL IT OUT

I am the President/CEO of the History Foundation

I rise to voice my opposition to the proposed additional cuts to the Montana Historical Society.

- HB 2 and SB 261 already significantly cut the staff of the Montana Historical Society and significantly reduced services to the public
- **These cuts amounted ALREADY to over 25% of the General Fund appropriation for this agency**
- The impact has been grave: 24 positions vacant or eliminated
- Evenings at museum - gone
- Saturday research center service - gone
- Tours of the Capitol - gone
- Public education programs – gone

This is one of Montana state government's smallest agencies and cuts made here are amplified because of the economy of scale.

An additional 10% reduction will force MORE reductions in services and provide no significant relief from the overall budget shortfall.

Please remember that Montana's pioneer families - from Ekalaka to Libby; from Dillon to Plentywood - have been giving artifacts and documents to the Montana Historical Society for 150 years with the knowledge and expectation that the State of Montana is preserving these items for all past, present, and future Montanans.

Please consider that further cuts to this agency will prevent that from happening and severely jeopardize that trust.

Thank you,

October 4, 2017

To: Legislative Finance Committee

Name: Amy Varner

Representing: Missoula Child development Center

Section or area of concern: Over all funds to Continue

Comments:

is taking Away Funds ~~Real~~ Really whats
need or does Children of montana with Special
needs needing our Help not im porttant
Our Children MATTER so let's make the
Come 1st phase

Thank you

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



Montana Chapter

September 25, 2017

Montana Chapter

280 W. Kagy Blvd, Ste D #285
Bozeman, MT 59715
Phone: 844/228-7480
E-mail: info@mtped.org

Montana Chapter Executive Committee

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E-mail: kidsdocs@aap.org
www.aap.org

THE HONORABLE Steve Bullock
Office of Governor Steve Bullock
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620-0801

Via Electronic Submission and US Mail

Dear Governor Bullock:

On behalf of the 114 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists, and pediatric surgical specialists of the American Academy of Pediatrics - Montana Chapter (Montana AAP), I write today to express our grave concerns over a proposal by the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) to eliminate Part C Early Intervention Services ^{and} of the Family Education Support program.

While we recognize that the need to balance Montana's budget will require some difficult decisions, our state faces an unprecedented challenge that could marginalize thousands of children with medical disabilities and developmental delays. Part C, Early Intervention (EI) provides vital services for developmentally disabled children aged 0-3 years--a crucial point in growth and development, and the benefits can last a lifetime. A study of babies born prematurely found that, by the time those children were 18 years old, those who had participated in EI had better academic performance, were less likely to drop out, and had fewer risky behaviors. Here in Montana, over two-thirds of children enrolled in these programs avoid matriculation in special education classrooms, which results not only in significant benefits to families but also relieves the physical and fiscal strain on the public school system and the state.

In addition to Part C, DPHHS has also proposed eliminating the Family Education Support (FES) program for disabled children aged 3-21 years. FES Services helps families of children with special needs by enhancing the knowledge and skills of children and their families to achieve optimal success in life. As is evident from the pervasive nature of the DPHHS proposal, the future for all of Montana's children with developmental disability would be severely threatened by the elimination of these programs. Furthermore, failure to preserve Part C would make Montana the only state in the union to not provide this service. While cutting Part C, Early Intervention may help reduce the budget deficit in the short-term, it will end up costing Montanans more in the long-term.

Therefore, the Montana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics strongly implores you to preserve both Part C Early Intervention Services and the Family Education Support program.

We appreciate your consideration of our position on these critical matters. If you have questions or would like to discuss these issues further, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone at 406-281-8700.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tanya Jagodzinski".

Tanya Jagodzinski, MD FAAP
Montana AAP Chapter President

save this

what's life like without our staff

life is hard when we don't have the staff to take us to work.

it is hard when we don't get to go exploring outdoors.

we get depressed when we can't go and enjoy the things we do for fun.

i learn from my staff and i need my staff. please don't cut our budget


thank you for listening

Kyle Tharp

I am writing today to oppose proposed cuts to the Part C Early Intervention and Family Education & Support services. Not only would Montana be the only state to not offer these critical services to its citizens, it would also be a gross show of our state to not protect the most vulnerable among us.

My niece was diagnosed with autism at an early age. Before her diagnosis, she was almost non-verbal, would not maintain eye-contact and was very much introverted. After her diagnosis, she began to work with the Child Development Center. The work started paying off so quickly and she began to make huge leaps. Today, you would never look at this radiant, silly girl and know that she struggled. She is fully verbal, holds eye-contact and initiates conversations herself! That is such a huge leap! And I am forever grateful to the CDC for giving her the tools to express herself to others and the world around her.

These services help numerous Montana families through education and support. They not only help the children on the spectrum, but the families that are at a loss on how to help them navigate the world. It is fundamental work.



Sara Waldbillig
6737 Bristle Cone Court
Lolo, MT 59847
406-274-1844

As the father of a child with autism, I strongly oppose Montana's recent proposal to eliminate Part C Early Intervention and Family Education and Support services as part of statewide budget cuts.

My daughter was nearly non-verbal when we began Early Intervention for her at age two, and was diagnosed on the spectrum just before age three. Family Education and Support helped my family through the stressful time of my daughter's autism diagnosis. We had no previous experience when it came to autism, and thanks to this service through the Child Development Center (CDC), we made it through that tremendously difficult and confusing time. I must stress how *critical* the CDC was for us and is for numerous families.

My daughter is now eight-years old, fully verbal, and dreams of becoming a teacher! Thanks to these essential services, this dream is possible (and knowing my daughter's determination and heart, it is extremely likely)!

Should Early Intervention be eliminated, Montana would be the only state in the country to not provide this critical service. Please don't abandon these kids and their families. These services provide education, support, and most importantly, hope for the future. And these kids *are* our future.

Ryan Clevidence
11483 Stella Blue Drive
Lolo, MT 59847
ryan.clevidence@me.com
406-546-4919

My granddaughter is on the autism spectrum and thankfully with the early intervention and the Child Development Center she will be able to navigate the world in which she is growing up in.

I wanted to address the other aspect of the necessity for the early intervention program (Part C). As part of management for a small business in Montana I am continually hearing about how our young adults leave the state rather than staying and working here, and the effect that it has on succession planning for our small businesses.

One in 45 children is diagnosed on the autism spectrum. If there aren't services for young parents to provide the best chance for their child's success they have no choice but to move. Therefore, we are potentially losing young couples from our work force simply for better autism services. This doesn't even look at the financial savings in the long run to provide services to the children so they will be able to be productive adults and the savings to the local schools.

It would be shameful if Montana is known to be the ONLY state that doesn't provide these services.

Kay Clevidence
153 Garnet Dr
Stevensville, MT 59870

406 546-2763
Kayc855@yahoo.com

I'm Carrie Eklund and this is my husband Scott Eklund and our sons Miles and Oliver. Our middle son, Nolan, is playing with his cousins today. We live in Somers, MT. In April 2016, we were awarded our first lease for 1,800 acres to start our farm in Chouteau County, near Scott's childhood home, on the same day we received Miles' diagnosis of polymicrogyria. Polymicrogyria is a brain malformation that occurs in utero and often the cause remains unknown. For Miles, this means he is 2.5 years old and cannot sit, walk, speak, or feed himself.

Scott and I have accomplished a lot together. We own two small businesses, have engineering degrees, and have completed service in the US Peace Corps. But NOTHING has been harder than what we have experienced since we first noticed Miles' condition at 6 months old. You grieve the child you were expecting to have while trying to cope with day to day existence and trying to grasp what the future might hold for your family. It is a lonely and daunting time.

Thankfully, at 9 months old, Miles received a referral to the Child Development Center in Kalispell for an evaluation. The evaluation reports were required by our pediatrician to prescribe the necessary therapy for Miles. We enrolled in Part C and begin receiving Family Support Services. Family Support Services helped us to navigate service provider appointments, applications for assistance, and getting on the 0208 waiver list. Access to disability services in Montana is convoluted and challenging. 0208 is the Developmental Disability Waiver that has a 7-8 year wait list. The state programs for Part C, Family Support Services, and the Developmental Disability Waiver and Physical Disability Waiver are critical services that are currently underfunded.

The services provided by Part C and the Family Support Services are not redundant. Our pediatrician has only seen 3 or 4 cases of Miles' condition. Our neurologist refuses to talk about Miles' future potential until he is five years old, though he has told us he might have a hard time reading. Private insurance has strict limits on durable medical goods and Part C can be very helpful to fill in the gaps. Our Family Support Specialist, Kristin Hoffman who is here today, has provided guidance for our transition into Part B services, helped us navigate our options for healthcare, find suitable equipment from the loan pool (also now CLOSED due to budget cuts), and placed us on the Developmental Disability Waiver waitlist.

Private insurance pays for 6 therapy sessions per year. Miles has 4 -5 sessions per week. Private insurance has numerous policy exclusions for developmental 'delays'. The premiums and deductibles were impossibly high—we were facing annual out of pocket expenses that were nearly 50% of the median Montana income. Healthy Montana Kids has been the best program we have been able to participate in—reliable coverage and access to all providers. I would personally rather spend my money in extra taxes to know we were going to get the care he needs than EVER face the private, for profit insurance industry again with Miles' condition.

Miles' future is unknown. We manage our hopes and optimism, but we expect he will walk someday and we see glimpses of a bright, engaged little boy. With continued intervention, he may someday be independent (and a taxpayer!). Without intervention, he may be wheelchair-bound, frustrated, and on Social Security for his entire adult life with either me or Scott remaining out of the workforce to care for him. If you are able to ignore the moral implications of these two scenarios, at least consider whether you think an investment in early intervention services is worth it to gain yourselves another couple taxpayers later. I support finding new revenue streams to fund these essential services.

October 4, 2017

To: Legislative Finance Committee

Name: Laura Ferguson

Representing: self as state employee

Section or area of concern: pass a damn revenue bill

Comments:

1. No more cuts. I already lost 20% of my job & pay from the first round of cuts. That's over \$7000 dollars/year — and that money would have gone right back to Montana in the form of college tuition at U.M. for my daughter. So, I lost, UM lost, my daughter lost + Montana lost.
2. End the oil + gas tax holiday!! NO ONE should be having a tax holiday while essential services + people's jobs are being cut! And that tax holiday cost Montana MILLIONS of dollars in needed revenue.
3. Repeal legislative & elected officials' pay raises I may 2006 wages, not 2017 wages. Make it fair to all before anyone gets a raise.

October 4, 2017

To: Legislative Finance Committee

Name: Ronald A. Bender

Representing: Parent

Section or area of concern: EXTENDED EMPLOYMENT

Comments: THIS SERVICE PROVIDES VALUABLE SUPPORTIVE WORK SERVICES TO CHALLENGED INDIVIDUALS TO CREATE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES. THESE INDIVIDUALS CANNOT WORK IN TRADITIONAL JOBS W/O THE INVALUABLE JOB COACHING AND SUPERVISORY HELP. WITH THIS, THESE INDIVIDUALS ARE CAPABLE OF WORKING, EARNING SOME INCOME AND OBTAINING SOME BENEFITS OF A NORMAL LIFE. THESE NEW CREATED POSITIONS ARE JOBS OTHER PEOPLE WOULDN'T PERFORM. THESE POSITIONS PROVIDE SOCIALIZATION FOR THESE INDIVIDUALS, AS WELL AS BENEFITS TO SOCIETY.

PLEASE DO NOT CUT THE FUNDING OF VALUABLE EXTENDED EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

October 4, 2017

To: Legislative Finance Committee

Name: Chloe Smith

Representing: MONTANA YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM (MYLF)

Section or area of concern: B. DPHHS

Comments: MYLF PROVIDES DIRECT SERVICES TO YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES FOR ALL OF MONTANA. OUR 18 YEARS OF WORKING WITH YOUTH IS TO HELP THEM DEVELOPE THE NECESSARY SKILLS TO WORK AND CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR COMMUNITIES INCLUDING ECONOMIES. MYLF IS SLATED FOR 100% ELIMINATION. PLEASE DO NOT ELIMINATE OUR PROGRAM. YOUTH ENTERING THE WORK FORCE ARE CONTRIBUTING TO SOCIETY. YOUTH THAT CANNOT WORK WILL END UP USING MORE RESOURCES AND DEPLEATING THEIR FAMILIES' RESOURCES AS WELL AS SELF ESTEEM. PLEASE HELP US TO SHOW MONTANA'S HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES THAT THEY HAVE VALUE. THAT THEY ARE IMPORTANT AND ESSENTIAL TO OUR ECONOMY AND COMMUNITIES. WE WILL TAKE OUR FAIR CUTS BUT TOTAL ELIMINATION IS NOT THE ANSWER.

October 4, 2017

To: Legislative Finance Committee

Name: Heather Zimmerman

Representing: myself

Section or area of concern: proposed cuts to OPHHS

Comments:

It is immoral and unacceptable to balance the state's budget on the backs of our most vulnerable citizens. Low income families, people with disabilities, children in foster care, children in abusive and neglectful ~~home~~ deserve to get help. They are our neighbors and I will not sit by and watch them suffer while the wealthiest among us are not paying their fair share. The legislature must call a special session to balance our ~~\$~~ budget by raising revenue.

October 4, 2017

To: Legislative Finance Committee

Name: Dr. Marian Kummer

Representing: American Academy of Pediatrics Montana Chapter

Section or area of concern: elimination of part C early intervention

Comments: and Family Education Support Program

I represent 114 pediatricians in the state. The early intervention program for children with special needs age 0-3 ~~and~~ are available in every state. They ~~are~~ represent standard of care for disabled children. The program should not be reduced or eliminated. It is a system of care including screening, evaluation and family-directed assessment along with interventions to enhance a family's capacity to meet the developmental needs of their child.

October 4, 2017

To: Legislative Finance Committee

Name: Jamie Wolf

Representing: Child Development Center

Section or area of concern: Part C Early Intervention and

Comments: Family Education & Support services

Madam Chairwoman and members of the Committee
Please see the attached written testimonies
From Missoula-area families whose
children have received services from
the Child Development Center. They were
unable to testify, and asked that their
words be on record for this hearing, in
written form. They oppose the elimination
of the above services, and support
alternative revenue sources as well
as a more fair distribution of cuts.

Thank you for your time and service,
Jamie Wolf

October 4th, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Diane Navarro, parent to a child with autism.

In 2014 my daughter was 2.5 years old, non-verbal, had obsessive tendencies that I couldn't understand, sensitivities to certain sensations, strange and difficult sleeping patterns, an inability to connect to children her own age-- the list goes on. Upon consultation her doctor encouraged me to seek out help, and the early intervention we got through the CDC was the single greatest assistance Aurora could have gotten.

Our journey with the Child Development Center and speech therapy began in June of 2014. CDC gave me some tools that I could use to help regulate some of Aurora's issues with her schedule, via a visual board so she could SEE what was going to be happening that day, not that she fully understood at her age. Speech therapy was definitely a difficult and slow process, building a trusting relationship with the therapist, a few words and signs starting to come out after months of weekly home visits. At this point, autism was a terrifying prospect for me. I was hoping that these markers that she was showing for possible autism were something that she would just grow out of. But that wasn't the case. I made a quick move from Hamilton, MT where there were virtually no resources for early intervention, to Missoula where there seemed to be so much more support. Aurora was able to get into the Jefferson School Early Learning program, and that is where the world opened up for both of us. Shortly after getting her into this program, writing up her IEP, I was presented with the information that there was a program, specifically available to children with autism. The only potential negative to this program was that it was based on a lottery type selection process, and some families are put on that waiting list for years.

I can honestly say that I felt like the luckiest person alive to have been selected by this waiver program a few weeks after putting in our application. It all seemed as though everything was coming

together, and I was getting all the help that we both desperately needed. The Child Autism Waiver was the best thing that could have ever happened. When she began her journey on the CAW, she was severely lacking in her communication, social-emotional, and cognitive skills. It was a struggle to get her on to a schedule that would benefit her the best, and discover what the best way would be for her to learn. Once we got her going on the right path, she has simply flourished. She is a completely different child than she was when we started.

The progress she made within the first year is nothing less than miraculous. It was a lot of hard work on my part, but I never could have done it without the amazing support of an organization like the Child Development Center. They opened up so many more doors for us, and gave me assistance I would have never known was available to us, if they hadn't been there and intervened as early as they did. Aurora has been a part of the CAW program for a little over a year and a half. She is entering kindergarten, into the mainstream class, something I wouldn't have imagined being possible if Aurora hadn't been given the opportunity to participate in the Waiver program.

These early intervention services are essential to the success of kids with any kind of autism or disability. I could not be happier with the way things have turned out with for my daughter. I firmly believe that if the funding for programs like this is kept in place, there will be far more success stories, like that of my child. It is apparent that the things they are doing are effective and have great carry over into everyday life skills. It would be a devastating blow to take these services away from the children and parents that need the help and skills that these organizations provide. On a personal level, I fear that the progress Aurora has made thus far will regress if she is not allowed to continue in these programs. It is essential to keep these programs in place, not just for my daughter, but for all the kids who are in need of these services.

September 27, 2017

Governor Steve Bullock
Po Box: 200801
Helena, MT 59620-0801

Dear Governor Bullock:

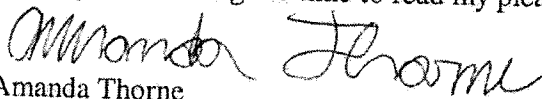
I am a case manager for adults with developmental disabilities, and I vehemently oppose the proposed 10% Montana Medicaid cuts. I implore you to really consider the impact of Medicaid on the thousands of lives who depend on it for their survival. Taking from Montana's most helpless and vulnerable population is not the way to address fiscal deficiencies.

These are not "optional" services that can be discontinued without severely reducing the already subpar quality of life that many individuals with disabilities have due to previous Medicaid cuts and a lack of appropriate community based services available to rural Montana. Individuals with disabilities are already fighting an uphill battle when it comes to securing jobs, housing, and community resources. It's easy for privileged individuals like you and myself to recover from the loss of a job or services; We are resilient and have a myriad of other options.

If my clients lose any of their Medicaid benefits, they will suffer deeply; losing jobs, housing, access to needed medical services/equipment, and becoming further isolated from their communities. Many will lose benefits (SNAP, LIAP, SSA) by default because they will have no support system in place to help them navigate the complex paperwork. Those lucky enough to have providers will be at risk for exploitation, as there will no longer be any oversight to prevent conflicts of interest.

As a social worker, and a fellow human, I have a moral obligation to speak against the proposed 10 % Medicaid cuts. Many of my clients do not have a voice. As a case manager and advocate, I am their voice. Please don't take from those who have the least. Those with disabilities need more resources, not less.

Thank you for taking the time to read my plea. Sincerely,


Amanda Thorne

Po Box 8173
Kalispell, MT 59904

September 27, 2017

Governor Steve Bullock
Po Box: 200801
Helena, MT 59620-0801

Dear Governor Bullock:

I am an adult with a developmental disability and I do not support the proposed 10% Montana Medicaid cuts. These cuts would affect me directly. This is scary for me. I rely on staff to support me and I need them to be able to help me. If my staff cannot be paid, or do not have jobs, they cannot help me. I need supports to keep me safe, healthy, and happy.

A case manager helped me write this letter, as I sometimes have difficulty communicating my thoughts and feelings. Please do not cut my Medicaid benefits. I do not know what I would do without them. They help pay for my staff, my home, and my work/day program. I need my Medicaid benefits so that I can have a good quality of life. I have a good life and with continued supports it will get even better. Please think of me and the life that I can live when making this decision.

Sincerely,

Erin O'Kates

Erin O'Kates

1828 S. Woodland Dr.
Kalispell, MT 59901

September 27, 2017

Governor Steve Bullock
Po Box: 200801
Helena, MT 59620-0801

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Sincerely,

SCOTT DONALD GINTHER JR

Scott Donald Gintner
Po Box 189
Plains, MT 59859

September 27, 2017

Governor Steve Bullock

Po Box: 200801

Helena, MT 59620-0801

Dear Governor Bullock:

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Sincerely,

DONAE FROST

Danae Frost

Po Box 189

Plains, MT 59859

September 27, 2017

Governor Steve Bullock

Po Box: 200801

Helena, MT 59620-0801

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Sincerely,

Sandy Hoot

Sandy Hoot
PO. BOX 1287
PLAINFIELD, MT, 59839

September 27, 2017

Governor Steve Bullock
Po Box: 200801
Helena, MT 59620-0801

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Sincerely,

Kim Soper

Kim Soper

Po Box 189

Plains, MT 59859

September 27, 2017

Governor Steve Bullock
Po Box: 200801
Helena, MT 59620-0801

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Sincerely,

KAREN

Karen Cisney
Po Box 189
Plains, MT 59859

September 27, 2017

Governor Steve Bullock
Po Box: 200801
Helena, MT 59620-0801

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Sincerely,

CINDY

Candy Eaton

Po Box 189

Plains, MT 59859

September 27, 2017

Governor Steve Bullock

Po Box: 200801

Helena, MT 59620-0801

Dear Governor Bullock:

I am an adult with a developmental disability and I do not support the proposed 10% Montana Medicaid cuts. These cuts would affect me directly. This is scary for me. I rely on staff to support me and I need them to be able to help me. If my staff cannot be paid, or do not have jobs, they cannot help me. I need supports to keep me safe, healthy, and happy.

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Sincerely,

BARBARA TAYLOR

Barbara Taylor

1828 South Woodland Dr.

Kalispell, MT 59901

September 27, 2017

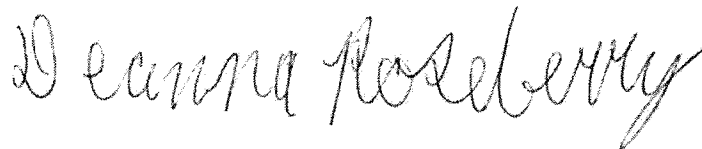
Governor Steve Bullock
Po Box: 200801
Helena, MT 59620-0801

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Sincerely,



Deanna Roseberry
Po Box 189
Plains, MT 59859

September 27, 2017

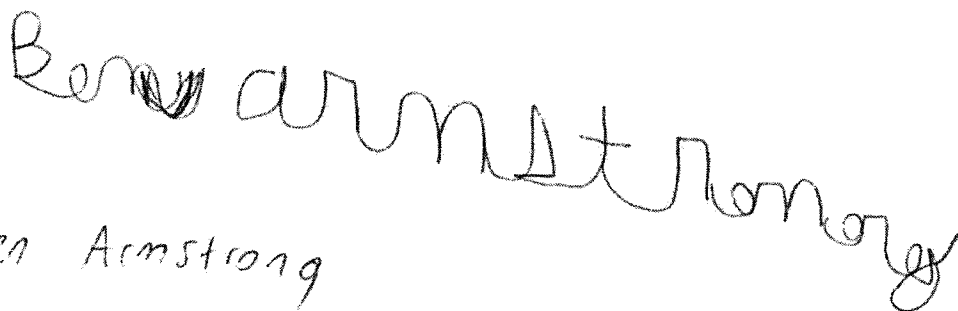
Governor Steve Bullock
Po Box: 200801
Helena, MT 59620-0801

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Sincerely,



Ben Armstrong

Po Box 189

Plains, MT 59859

Lindsay, Susie

From: Lorinne Burke <lorinneburke@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 04, 2017 12:50 PM
To: Lindsay, Susie
Subject: Public Comment for Legislative Finance Committee Oct 4,5

I would like to see taxes on Sodas, Alcohol and Tobacco. This would generate some much needed revenue for the state and drive down use by minors of at least beer/wine and cigarettes.

Since revenue from tobacco will not be steady, it should be used for one time projects to raise governmental efficiency, condense departments, and streamline processes.

Child Protective Services cannot afford 10% cuts at this time. They are overburdened already by a surge in children whose parents are using drugs. We had 14 dead children last year that were involved in the CPS system. We will have more this year. How many more will increase or decrease depending on the time social workers have to check on cases, children and portion out services to families in need.

Thank you,

S. Lorinne Burke, MMFT, LCPC, PC
Northwest Counseling

Lindsay, Susie

From: Carlson, Amy
Sent: Wednesday, October 04, 2017 2:09 PM
To: Lindsay, Susie
Subject: FW: testimony for today's committee meeting

From: Davies, Liz [mailto:ldavies@communitymed.org]
Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2017 1:50 PM
To: Carlson, Amy
Subject: testimony for today's committee meeting

To Members of the Legislative Finance Committee,
Please accept this letter in response to proposed spending reductions in the DPHHS budget, specifically regarding Community First Choice and the Big Sky and SDMI Medicaid Waiver programs.

I understand that the funding appropriated to the Department by the Legislature requires budget reductions due to revenue shortfalls. However, achieving these reductions by cutting essential Medicaid services is a huge disservice to the people who rely on these services the most. It is also a health and safety issue that may have serious consequences for our State's most vulnerable populations.

The Legislature should be well aware of the workforce shortage in our State, especially in the healthcare field. Personal care agencies are already hard pressed to find quality, reliable employees who are willing to work for low wages, often without health insurance or other benefits. We are entrusting the care of our most vulnerable community members – the elderly and people with disabilities – to providers who are being sent the message that DPHHS does not value them. Cuts to programs like Healthcare for Healthcare Workers and essential Medicaid services such as Community First Choice and Waiver will force agencies to reduce wages for their employees or even lay off workers to absorb the spending reductions.

Lay offs result in fewer people in the workforce paying income taxes, buying homes and paying property taxes, participating in the economy and contributing to the State's revenue. Those individuals then become more reliant on public assistance programs like TANF, SNAP and Medicaid – the very programs that will suffer as a result of these cuts. Fewer caregivers providing services in home and community based settings like assisted living facilities also puts more people at risk for institutionalization, which is the least cost effective option.

Please consider other ways to achieve necessary budget reductions including increasing revenue. It is fiscally irresponsible and unethical to expect the disability community to shoulder the burden in order to avoid raising taxes on the wealthy.

Thank you for your consideration,

Liz Davies, LCSW
Supervisor
Home & Community Based Services - Community Medical Center
685 Palmer St, Ste D
Missoula, MT 59808
Ph: (406) 327-4589
F: (406) 327-4484



C.M. RUSSELL MUSEUM®

The Art and Soul of the American West

October 4, 2017

The Honorable Nancy Ballance

Chair, Legislative Finance Committee

Dear Representative Ballance,

As a Montana institution dedicated to preserving, interpreting, and displaying the cultural and artistic patrimony of the state, its people, and its artists, the C.M. Russell Museum, its staff, and the board of trustees urge you to support the Montana Historical Society (MHS) and preserve the remaining funds allocated to its operation. The archival, photographic, and object collections at MHS are the state's flagship research collection dedicated to Montana history, culture, and the arts, which enrich the lives of Montanans throughout the state. Funding for these resources is integral to the public good, as institutions statewide use MHS to magnify their educational outreach and enhance their cultural provisions at a local level.

For institutions like us, the MHS provides much needed access to important resources that aid in our institutional research and scholarship, as well as access to knowledgeable staff who facilitate loans to our exhibitions, answer research inquiries, provide educational opportunities for our visitors and professional training for our employees. The Montana Historical Society has been an important institutional partner to the C.M. Russell Museum on an ongoing basis. They have facilitated a number of opportunities for our more than 40,000 yearly visitors, which comprise the people of Great Falls, Montanans statewide, and tourists, including:

Lending

- 27 ethnographic objects and 2 historical objects to our permanent exhibition *The Bison: American Icon Heart of Plains Indian Culture*
- The Mint Bar, which is on permanent display in the Russell galleries
- 8 paintings that were lent to last year's summer exhibition *Going to the Sun: Artists in Glacier National Park*
- And 14 paintings that are currently being requested for the groundbreaking exhibition *Charles M. Russell: The Women in His Life and Art* scheduled to open May of 2018

and Organizing

- An educator's workshop and teacher's resource packet on Visual Thinking Strategies with Great Falls teachers
- A book tour with Glenn Frankel, former director of the School of Journalism and G.B. Dealey Regents Professor at the University of Texas at Austin, author of *High Noon: The Hollywood Blacklist and the Making of an American Classic* that toured to various organizations across Montana, including ours
- The yearly History Conference for professionals across the state and nation, which our staff attended
- And a special training session for our staff on best practices for the digitization of our archival collection of Joseph Henry Sharp photographs

During these tough economic periods, we want to make sure our elected leaders are aware of the positive results of their spending decisions. The economic investment in MHS is amplified tenfold through the outreach and assistance M provides to cultural organizations and in schools throughout Montana, stimulating civic engagement and cultural growth in Montana cities that is attractive to residents and businesses alike.



C.M. RUSSELL MUSEUM®

The Art and Soul of the American West

October 4, 2017

The Honorable Nancy Ballance

Chair, Legislative Finance Committee

Page 2

Venerated economist and political thinker John Stuart Mill (1806–1873) had a profound appreciation for the arts as a reliable source for human joy and rejuvenation in troubled times, writing on the poetry of William Wordsworth, that

“In them I seemed to draw from a source of inward joy, of sympathetic and imaginative pleasure, which could be shared in by all human beings; which had no connexion with struggle or imperfection, but would be made richer by every improvement in the physical or social condition of mankind.”

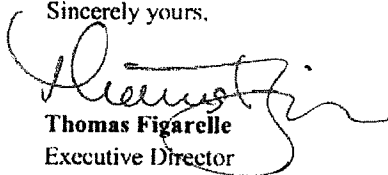
And Charlie Russell, too, noted art’s enduring influence and on the cultural legacy it leaves behind, writing on the death of E.S. Paxson in 1919,

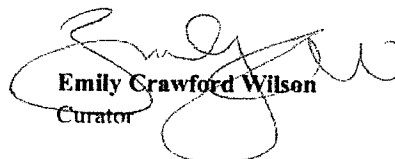
“The iron heel of civilization has stamped out nations of men but it has never been able to wipe out pictures...Paxson was one of the men gifted to make them....He was a pioneer and a pioneer painter...Paxson loved Montana. May the land where he has gone be even more beautiful than the mountains that he loved.”

It is sentiments like these that institutions like the MHS and the C.M. Russell Museum have dedicated their missions, their staff, and their resources to promoting and championing, for the benefit of all Montanans: past, present, and future.

Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to contact our institution if you would like to discuss this issue further.

Sincerely yours,


Thomas Figarelle
Executive Director


Emily Crawford Wilson
Curator



NEW REVENUES, PUBLIC HEALTH BENEFITS & COST SAVINGS FROM A \$1.50 CIGARETTE TAX INCREASE IN MONTANA

- The current state cigarette tax is \$1.70 per pack (22nd among all states and DC).
- Annual health care expenditures in Montana directly caused by tobacco use are \$440 million.

Projected New Annual Revenue from Increasing the Cigarette Tax by \$1.50 Per Pack: \$31.38 million

Additional Revenue from Raising Other Tobacco Product Tax Rates to Parallel New Levels: \$12.00 million

New Annual Revenue is the amount of additional new revenue the first full year the tax increase is in effect. The state will collect less new revenue if it fails to apply the rate increase to all cigarettes and other tobacco products held in wholesaler and retailer inventories on the effective date.

Projected Public Health Benefits for Montana from the Cigarette Tax Rate Increase	
Percent decrease in youth (under age 18) smoking:	15.8%
Youth under age 18 kept from becoming adult smokers:	6,800
Reduction in young adult (18-24 years old) smokers:	1,500
Current adult smokers who would quit:	7,200
Premature smoking-caused deaths prevented:	3,900
5-Year reduction in the number of smoking-affected pregnancies and births:	1,300
5-Year health care cost savings from fewer smoking-caused lung cancer cases:	\$1.31 million
5-Year health care cost savings from fewer smoking-affected pregnancies and births:	\$3.26 million
5-Year health care cost savings from fewer smoking-caused heart attacks & strokes:	\$2.79 million
5-Year Medicaid program savings for the state:	\$2.30 million
Long-term health care cost savings from adult & youth smoking declines:	\$292.97 million

12.22.16 TFK / January 9, 2017

- Small tax increase amounts do not produce significant public health benefits or cost savings because the cigarette companies can easily offset the beneficial impact of such small increases with temporary price cuts, coupons, and other promotional discounting. Splitting a tax rate increase into separate, smaller increases in successive years will similarly diminish or eliminate the public health benefits and related cost savings (as well as reduce the amount of new revenue).
- Raising state tax rates on other tobacco products (OTPs) to parallel the increased cigarette tax rate will bring the state additional revenue, public health benefits, and cost savings (and promote tax equity). With unequal rates, the state loses revenue each time a cigarette smoker switches to cigars, roll-your-own tobacco, smokeless tobacco, or other tobacco products taxed at a lower rate. To parallel the new \$3.20 per pack cigarette tax, the state's new OTP tax rate should be 74% of the wholesale price with minimum tax rates for each major OTP category linked to the state cigarette tax rate on a per-package or per-dose basis.

Explanations & Notes

Health care costs listed at the top of the page are from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Annual health care expenditures in Montana directly caused by tobacco use are in 2009 dollars and are from the CDC's 2014 *Best Practices for Comprehensive Tobacco Control Programs*.

Projections are based on research findings that nationally, each 10% increase in the retail price of cigarettes reduces youth smoking by 6.5%, young adult prevalence by 3.25%, adult prevalence by 2%, and total cigarette consumption by about 4% (adjusted down to account for tax evasion effects). However, the impact of the tax increase may vary from state-to-state, based on the starting pack price. Significant tax increases generate new revenues because the higher tax rate per pack brings in more new revenue than is lost from the tax-related drop in total pack sales.

The projections also incorporate the effect of ongoing background smoking declines, population distribution, and the continued impact of any recent state cigarette tax increases or other changes in cigarette tax policies on prices, smoking levels, and pack sales.

These projections are fiscally conservative because they include a generous adjustment for lost state pack sales (and lower net new revenues) from possible new smuggling and tax evasion after the rate increase and from fewer sales to smokers or smugglers from other states, including sales on tribal lands. For ways that the state can protect and increase its tobacco tax revenues and prevent and reduce contraband trafficking and other tobacco tax evasion, see the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids factsheet, *State Options to Prevent and Reduce Cigarette Smuggling and to Block Other Illegal State Tobacco Tax Evasion*, <http://tobaccofreekids.org/research/factsheets/pdf/0274.pdf>.

Projected numbers of youth prevented from smoking and dying are based on all youth ages 17 and under alive today. Projected reduction in young adult smokers refers to young adults ages 18-24 who would not start smoking or would quit as a result of the tax increase. Savings to state Medicaid programs include estimated changes in enrollment resulting from federal laws in effect as of December 2016 and state decisions regarding Medicaid expansion. Long-term cost savings accrue over the lifetimes of persons who stop smoking or never start because of the tax rate increase. All cost savings are in 2017 dollars.

Projections for cigarette tax increases much higher than \$1.00 per pack are limited, especially for states with relatively low current tax rates, because of the lack of research on the effects of larger cigarette tax increase amounts on consumption and prevalence. Projections for cigarette tax increases much lower than \$1.00 per pack are also limited because small tax increases are unlikely to produce significant public health benefits.

Ongoing reductions in state smoking rates will, over time, gradually erode state cigarette tax revenues, in the absence of any new rate increases. However, those declines are more predictable and less volatile than many other state revenue sources, such as state income tax or corporate tax revenues, which can drop sharply during recessions. In addition, the smoking declines that reduce tobacco tax revenues will simultaneously produce much larger reductions in government and private sector smoking-caused health care and other costs over time. See the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids factsheet, *Tobacco Tax Increases are a Reliable Source of Substantial New State Revenue*, <http://tobaccofreekids.org/research/factsheets/pdf/0303.pdf>.

The projections in the table on this fact sheet were generated using an economic model developed jointly by the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids (TFK) and the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) and are updated annually. The projections are based on economic modeling by researchers with Tobacconomics: Frank Chaloupka, Ph.D., John Tauras, Ph.D., and Jidong Huang, Ph.D. at the Institute for Health Research and Policy at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and Michael Pesko, Ph.D., at the Weill Cornell Medical College. The state Medicaid cost savings projections, when available, are based on modeling done by Matthew Buettgens and Hannah Recht at the Urban Institute, with updates by Matt Broaddus at the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities.

For other ways states can increase revenues (and promote public health) beyond just raising cigarette tax rates, see the Campaign factsheet, *The Many Ways States Can Raise Revenue While Also Reducing Tobacco Use and Its Many Harms & Costs*, <http://tobaccofreekids.org/research/factsheets/pdf/0357.pdf>.

Additional information and resources to support tobacco tax increases are available at:

http://www.tobaccofreekids.org/facts_issues/fact_sheets/policies/tax/us_state_local/

<http://acscan.org/tobacco/taxes/>

<http://tobacconomics.org/>

For more on sources and calculations, see <http://www.tobaccofreekids.org/research/factsheets/pdf/0281.pdf> or www.acscan.org/tobaccotaxexplanations.

Ann Boonn, Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids

Frank J. Chaloupka, Tobacconomics

Melissa Maitin-Shepard, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

Legislative Finance Committee
Re: Montana Historical Society proposed budget cuts.
Public Comment

My name is Pam Attardo and I am the Heritage Preservation Officer for the City of Helena and Lewis and Clark Co. I'm here to request that MHS's budget not be reduced an additional 10%, as I have seen it benefit so many around the state, particularly in rural communities.

Personally, the Montana Historical Society staff have been wonderful colleagues, and important resource to schools, libraries, museums, archives, historic preservation professionals and historical societies in every county of Montana.

~~I can vouch for this, and~~ I speak for myself as well as many others I'm sure: Archaeology Day for schools, tours of the Museum, footlockers on particular subjects such as Chinese in MT, that can be checked out.

like myself
when I recount my experiences w/ MHS

I regularly use the Research Center for research, to use Ancestry.com, to look for historic photos. Recent cuts have reduced research center hours to 4 days a week, and access to the photo archives is now by appointment only – there are no longer any public hours.

MHS has been so helpful, allowing me and volunteers to tour the Archives and take notes on how to properly store artifacts and documents, create an identification system, as well as a finding system for storage. Because of them County artifacts, such as textiles, are now properly stored and we are working on an identification, storage and finding system.

During my 6 years in my current position, SHPO's support has been invaluable. I am so fortunate to be in the same geographical location as MHS. Not so for other communities around the state, particularly in rural areas. Still, these communities benefit from grants and outreach through MHS. I find it so impressive what these small communities with very small populations can do with locally raised funds – almost every small town has a local museum, and just about every county, with the exception of I think 2, including Lewis & Clark, have county museums. Sometimes a very small grant can make the impossible achievable.

MHS has always made an effort to reach out to underserved locations, even holding their yearly history conferences in various locations around the state, including Sidney, Hamilton, and Bozeman. These conferences are a boom to local economies, as attendees stay in lodging, eat in restaurants, shop, and discover local sights and businesses. In an effort to save money (i.e., lodging and transportation of MHS staff), the conferences alternate being held in Helena.

- The Montana Historical Society serves Montanans, but also visitors from across the nation and around the world. The MHS is highly respected for its collections and programs and is a strong contributor to our tourism economy.

- Due to the reductions imposed in HB 2 and SB 261, the staff of the Montana Historical Society and services have been significantly diminished. Staff has been reduced by 15 positions or unfilled to date, with 8 people laid off. Total staff reduced by 25%.
- General Fund appropriation has been reduced by 25.7%, total fund reduced 17.4%. General Fund reduction of over \$1 million per year.
- Research Center and Museum public hours have been reduced.
- Capitol guided tours have been discontinued.
- Public educational programs have been eliminated.
- Other programs and services reduced or eliminated. .

This is one of Montana state government's smallest agencies. The impacts of cuts already in place have been enormous. An additional 10% reduction would only be accomplished through additional reduction in force and subsequent reduction in services to all of us in Montana, yet provide no significant relief from the overall budget shortfall.

We hope that the Governor and Legislature would work together in a bipartisan fashion to identify the best possible solutions to this revenue shortfall and stay open to ALL possibilities.

I apologize that this is not a formal letter. I intended to testify, but am not able to stay past 4:30 to deliver this in person, especially since the Committee must hear corrections first.

Sincerely, Pamela J. Attardo

October 4, 2017

To: Legislative Finance Committee

Name: Beth & Rick Cottingham

Representing: SELF

Section or area of concern: Cuts to Dept of

Comments: Health & Human Services!

10/4/17 - I am a retired Public Health Nurse - both Rick & I volunteer for our local food bank & for Family Promise (which is a church based housing for homeless families).

We hear stories about families of 4 receiving \$134/mo to eat - we see them at the food bank - they are families working for minimum wage!

I know a little 3rd grade girl who wants to be a pediatrician - her Mom works full time for minimum wage - they come to the food bank! →

My sister Maggie Moffatt works
with the mentally ill in Missoula.
They are spread so thin now -
Cats would only make it worse
for the dear ones she
provides care for -

Please value our Montana
Citizens - be courageous -
fight for a special session -
Not for Cats to our most
vulnerable Montanans!!

Humbly, Rich + Beth

Help those with no voice!
Rich & Beth

Chair Ballance and Members of the Legislative Finance Committee:

Planned Parenthood Advocates of Montana urges the Committee and the legislative body to protect the Medicaid Family Planning Waiver in Montana, not balance the state budget on the backs of the most vulnerable, and come together to find common sense solutions including raising revenue.

Planned Parenthood of Montana operates five health centers throughout the state of Montana and serves as a leading women's health care provider and advocate and a trusted, nonprofit source of primary and preventive care for women, men, and young people in the community. Every year, our health centers provide affordable birth control, lifesaving cancer screenings, testing and treatment for STDs, and other essential care to more than 15,000 patients. The vast majority of our patients are low-income and lack health insurance (27 percent uninsured). Family planning services, including birth control, STI testing and treatment, and cancer screenings, play a critical role in keeping Montana women and families healthy and contribute to healthy birth outcomes.

Since the mid-1990s, states have been granted permission from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to waive regular Medicaid eligibility requirements to expand eligibility for family planning services to individuals who would otherwise be ineligible for Medicaid. Over the years, family planning waivers have become commonplace, and currently 25 states operate Medicaid family planning waivers or state plan amendments (SPAs), which achieve the same goal. Family planning waiver eligibility differs by state: some states choose to make all individuals of reproductive age eligible for waiver coverage, while other states limit eligibility to adult women only. Waiver coverage, however, is fairly uniform across states and includes family planning and family planning-related services.

The Role of Family Planning-Only Coverage

More low-income individuals have gained access to comprehensive health insurance coverage—particularly in states like ours that expanded Medicaid coverage. As a result, fewer people rely on family planning-only programs as their only source of coverage. However, timely access to family planning care remains particularly important because such health services are often time-sensitive; only a few days without contraception can result in an unintended pregnancy. As such, there is still a need for family planning-only coverage in our state.

- ***Family planning-only programs will continue to be a point of coverage for uninsured individuals.*** Although we have seen drastic reductions in the uninsured rate in our state since implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and Medicaid expansion, some individuals may find Montana Exchange coverage unaffordable, and will choose to pay the penalty instead of purchasing coverage on the Exchange. In addition, despite the fact that since 2013 there has been a drastic 8 percent decrease in the uninsured rate in our state, 83,000 Montanans remain uninsured.¹ For these individuals, Medicaid family planning coverage may make the difference

¹ Jessica L. Semega, Kayla R. Fontenot, and Melissa A. Kollar. Income and Poverty in the United States: 2016. U.S. Census Bureau (Sept. 12, 2017)., <https://www.census.gov/library/publications/2017/demo/p60-259.html>.

between their ability to access basic cancer screenings and birth control—or not.

- ***Family planning-only programs will continue to be a source of coverage for confidential care.*** Under the ACA, more young adults are able to remain on a parent's insurance coverage, and many more families have been able to access private insurance coverage through the Marketplace. Although most private insurance plans must provide coverage of women's preventive health services (e.g., prescription birth control and certain sexually transmitted infection (STI) screenings), private plans may inadvertently breach confidentiality by sending an explanation of benefits (services received by an enrollee) to the policyholder (parent or spouse). Teens, young adults, and spouses of an abusive partner may choose to forgo critical services if they are not assured confidentiality. Family planning-only coverage can help ensure access to confidential care.
- ***Family planning-only programs will serve as "gap" coverage.*** Sometimes there will be lag times between enrollment and the effective date of coverage and some individuals will lose coverage during a non-open enrollment period and need to wait until the next open enrollment period to obtain insurance coverage. Likewise, millions of people are at risk of churning between sources of insurance coverage each year (e.g., Medicaid and the Marketplace) and may experience gaps in insurance coverage as they transition. Family planning-only programs can help to fill gaps in insurance coverage by providing individuals access to critical family planning services while they wait for their coverage to take effect.

Montana should continue to operate the family planning waiver. Even though the ACA has expanded coverage for many people, some individuals will still experience gaps in health coverage and access. The Montana Plan First waiver will help ensure seamless coverage of family planning services for those that churn between Medicaid and the Exchange, as many people experience changes in coverage. The waiver is cost-effective and saves the state money. Family planning services are reimbursed at a 90% matching rate. The investment in family planning services also creates future savings. Every dollar invested in family planning saves more than \$7 in other costs.²

The totality of the proposed cuts to DPHHS will no doubt harm individuals. We urge the Legislature to engage in courageous conversations with the Governor to identify revenue raising opportunities to mitigate the impact these proposed cuts will have on our community. Montana women, families, and children deserve nothing less.

Sincerely,

Laura Terrill
VP of External Affairs
Planned Parenthood Advocates of Montana
406-248-3636

² Frost JJ et al., Return on investment: a fuller assessment of the benefits and cost savings of the US publicly funded family planning program, *Milbank Quarterly*, 92(4):696–749 (Dec. 2014).

Madame Chair, members
of the Committee.

My name is Brandon
Gregorich and I have
been receiving services
through Opportunity
Resources for 7 years.

Opportunity provides
me with a place to work
(woodshop) payee services
to help me manage my money,
and 24/7 staffing. If these
cuts go through, I will
no longer be able to get
out in the community and
go fishing with my friends,

due to staffing shortages.
If I have no staff, I can't
go anywhere. My staff help
me cook, clean, take me to
GameStop, take me grocery
shopping, help keep me
safe in the community,
provide rides to appointments,
and ~~help~~ help me with just
about everything else. Please
do not let these budget
cuts happen, it would be
devastating to me and my
friends.