

DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

EXHIBIT 17  
DATE 3-23-05  
HB 669



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GOVERNOR

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March 21, 2005

Representative Rosie Buzzas, Chair  
House Appropriation Committee  
State Capitol Room 102  
Helena, MT 59620

HB 669

Re: HB 669 Contracting questions

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Committee:

I am writing at the request of Representative Gutche. During the hearing on HB669 apparently some questions were raised concerning the contracting process.

Generally speaking, the Division of Child and Family Services goes through a Requests for Proposal (RFP) process when seeking contractors to provide human services. This process is competitive. Any interested party may submit a proposal that is scored and the contract is generally awarded to the proposal that scores the highest. The RFP may indicate geographic areas in which the services are to be provided.

However, as contract for human services, it is also permissible to directly contract with a provider and eliminate the RFP process. Should HB 669 pass, the Division will look for the legislative intent before proceeding to contract.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kathy Ostrander".

Kathy Ostrander  
Child and Family Services  
Program Bureau Chief