



EXHIBIT 3  
DATE 2-4-05  
HB 425

February 4, 2005

TO: Representative Jim Keane and Members of House Business and Labor

FROM: Alex E. Ward, AARP Montana

RE: Support of HB 425

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, for the record my name is Alex E. Ward. I spent 25 years as a police officer in Washington State. AARP Montana represents 143,000 members. Our members continue to be concerned about fraud and support strengthening consumer protection role of government

We support of HB 425 for one important reason: it is more effective to place the responsibility of consumer protection, especially of telemarketing fraud and do not call programs, in an agency that can take strong enforcement actions. Seniors who have been victimized by telemarketing schemes and other consumer scams need the resources of the Attorney General's office to resolve these often tragic cases.

In a 2002 Survey we did of Montanans we learned that only 5% of the 39% of people surveyed who identified themselves as having been victimized by fraud reported the crime to the police. 14% Reported to state agencies. In this survey there were several questions about where people would turn for specific events. People were confused and the leading answer usually was the wrong one.

During this past summer AARP co-hosted 23 Senior Fraud Summits around the state. The summits revealed a troubling lack of understanding of where to go for help when seniors have been victimized by fraud. Most reported they would call their county attorney's office for find help. The Attorney General's relationship with county attorneys is an important link to working on these cases and preventing fraud.

In addition to these training sessions, we also conducted 22 sessions for law enforcement and county attorneys. Law enforcement was eager to get the additional training that we hope would also be a benefit of the program being located in the Department of Justice.

We support HB 425 and hope you will support it as well. Montana consumers, especially seniors who are regularly targets of fraud, deserve the strongest enforcement and protection we can offer them. Thank you for this opportunity to support HB 425.

EXHIBIT 3  
DATE 2-4-05  
HB 957

Amendments to House Bill No. 457  
1st Reading Copy

Requested by Representative Mark Noennig

For the House Business and Labor Committee

Prepared by Bartley Campbell  
February 4, 2005 (8:25am)

1. Title, line 10.

**Following:** "TECHNOLOGISTS;"

**Strike:** "AND"

**Following:** "MCA"

**Insert:** "; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE"

2. Page 3, following line 11.

**Insert:** "NEW SECTION. Section 4. {standard} Effective date.

[This act] is effective on passage and approval."

- END -