

EXHIBIT 9

DATE _____

HB _____

HOUSE BILL 628
February 18, 2005 – 3:00 PM
Education Committee

From: Robert C. Larsson [mailto:pinehaven@blackfoot.net]
Sent: Thursday, February 17, 2005 11:57 AM
To: Jeanne Windham
Cc: Andy Larsson
Subject: HB 628

PINEHAVEN CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S RANCH AND SCHOOL
P. O. Box 940
St. Ignatius, Montana 59865

To the Education Committee, Montana House of Representatives

I am director of the Pinehaven Christian Children's Ranch and School near St. Ignatius, Montana. We have been successfully caring for troubled children since 1976.

We are an adjunct ministry of the First Christian Church of St. Ignatius, Montana and have been in existence since 1951 and incorporated as a non-profit organization under Montana law since November 6, 1963.

We firmly believe that our ministry to needy children is defined in Scripture, as "pure religion". (James 1:27) We also note that the first amendment guarantees that the government shall not pass any law restricting the free exercise of religion.

We do not charge for our services, and we take no government funds, state, or federal.

Because we believe that HB 628 would restrict our free exercise of our bible-based religion in this area, we ask to be excluded from this bill by including the following wording under Section 2 (b):

"The term does not include:"

- (vi) a facility that does not charge a fee for its services
- (vii) a facility that does not accept public funds or governmental contracts
- (viii) a facility that is an adjunct ministry of a church incorporated in the state of Montana.

Thank you for your consideration and for your public service to our great state.

Sincerely,

Robert C. Larsson
P. O. Box 940
St. Ignatius, MT 59865

Office 406 745-3081 - Cell 406 531-5111

Email pinehaven@blackfoot.net