



EXHIBIT 2  
DATE 3-16-05  
#B 522

## Montana Dental Association

Constituent: AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION

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#### Executive Director

Mary K. McCue, J.D.

March 16, 2005

TO: Members, House Education Committee

FR: Mary McCue, Executive Director  
Montana Dental Association

RE: HB 522

This bill would appropriate \$10,000 as Montana's contribution for a feasibility study of a proposal made by the University of Washington to create a de-centralized model for dental education. Under this proposal Montana students would be allowed to complete their first year of dental education at MSU-Bozeman and then transfer to the University of Washington dental school to complete their training. It is envisioned they would then return to Montana for a clinical rotation in their last year of dental school.

- MDA supports innovative educational efforts that would respond to Montana's need for dentists in future years, particularly in rural areas of the state.

- The study would bring together key stakeholders, members of the dental community, MSU-Bozeman and University of Washington teachers and staff, community health center staff, and representatives of the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services to assess logistics, site feasibility, and dental community needs. Most of the cost of the study will be borne by grants obtained by the University of Washington.

- MDA supports efforts to increase the number of Montana dental students who are prepared to treat a diverse population of patients in a variety of settings.

- A major obstacle to addressing dental workforce shortages through educational reform is the lack of sufficient numbers of dental educators. A regional plan for dental education would address this reality. The model would allow Montana students to take advantage of courses offered at MSU-Bozeman to further their dental educations.

- MDA supports dental education models that allow for collaboration between dental students and Montana community practitioners.

*The mission of the Montana Dental Association is to represent the interests of the members of the dental profession and to promote the art and science of dentistry, so as to improve the health of Montanans.*