

EXHIBIT 5DATE 3-30-05**Montana Nurses' Association** HJ. 35

104 Broadway, Suite G2 • Helena, MT 59601 • 406/442-6710 • 406/442-1841 Fax

March 30, 2005

TO: Montana House Education Committee

Dear Education Committee Chairperson Galvin-Halcro,

I am Jenifer Sheehy, Family Nurse Practitioner, speaking today on behalf of the Montana Nurses' Association for its lobbyist Sharon Howard, who is unable to be here. The Montana Nurses' Association is in favor of House Joint Resolution 35, which requests a study to investigate options for providing a comprehensive state policy in regard to the administration of medications for students in Montana schools. As nurses, we recognize the importance of strategies that allow students to receive the correct medication, at the correct dosage, and at the correct time, whether at home or at school. We further recognize that medication administration at school is a complex issue that warrants in-depth exploration of students' needs, abilities, and medications. Montana Nurses' Association is in favor of a comprehensive study that addresses five key categories of medication administration:

- 1) self-administration by the student;
- 2) administration by a parent delegate in the school;
- 3) administration of medications taken "as needed," which might include prescription and non-prescription medications;
- 4) administration of medications for students who are unable to self-administer due to cognitive or physical limitations; and
- 5) administration of emergency medications, such as adrenalin or glucagon.

It is clear to the Montana Nurses' Association that the above issues would be addressed well by a study team comprised of parent stakeholders, and medical and school professionals to formulate a comprehensive strategy that could be presented to the 60th legislature for its consideration of implementation in Montana schools. For these reasons, we urge you to vote "yes" on House Joint Resolution No. 35.

Sincerely,

Jenifer Sheehy, MS, FNP