



EXHIBIT 12
DATE 2-16-05
HB 643

February 16, 2005

TO: Chairwoman Representative Arlene Becker and Members of the House Human Services Committee

RE: In support of HB 643, Eliminate smoking in enclosed public places

Madame Chairwoman and members of the Committee, for the record my name is Joy Bruck. I am a Volunteer Advocate for AARP Montana. AARP is dedicated to bettering the lives of persons 50 and older. We have a 143,000 members statewide.

AARP speaks today in support of HB 643. It is now known that tobacco smoke is one of the most pervasive and dangerous sources of indoor air pollution and has been classified by the EPA as a class A carcinogen. That means it is as deadly to health as asbestos.

Montana's aging population faces great risks from second-hand smoke. These risks include cancer, bronchitis, emphysema, heart disease, and the list goes on.

This legislation is a big step in keeping our older citizens, as well as everyone else, healthier.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to testify this afternoon and we urge that you pass HB 643.