

EXHIBIT 18  
DATE 2-16-05  
# 643

Tim Sinton, PA  
Choteau, MT 59422

Letter in SUPPORT Of House Bill 643

Committee Members:

Montanans have consistently shown their support for policies that address tobacco disease prevention by supporting the tobacco tax increase I-149 by 62% in 2004, funding of a tobacco disease prevention program I-146 by 65% in 2002 and creating the Tobacco Settlement Trust CA-35 by 73% in 2000.

Montanans know that tobacco free schools and campuses will help prevent kids from starting a lifetime of addiction, help adults who want to quit smoking and protect our kids and other Montanans from the toxic smoke that causes premature death of up to 175 Montanans per year who have been exposed to secondhand tobacco smoke.

My daughter Shanna has been active in the Teton County Tobacco Prevention Youth Coalition and I was shocked to learn the level the tobacco companies will go to promote and market this deadly product to our kids. Through her activities and those of other tobacco prevention advocates our kids are getting the important message of tobacco free lifestyles.

This legislation will expand the efforts of the coalitions and assist in providing a comprehensive tobacco prevention program.

I urge you to vote yes to this bill. This is a public health issue that will result in saving lives. What can be more important than that?

Sincerely,



Tim Sinton, Physician Assistant