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EXHIBIT 14
DATE 3-30-05
SB 275

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To: House Human Services Committee

From: Mona Jamison, Lobbyist for Shodair Hospital; Date: March 30, 2005

FACT SHEET FOR SB 275

1. Montana has had a voluntary genetics program since the late 1960's.
2. Under contract with the Dept. of Public Health & Human Service, Shodair has operated the program since 1976, and has provided over \$1,777,000 of private Foundation funds for the program.
3. In 1985, the Department and Shodair requested HB 430, which provided funding for the statewide program through a fee collected from each insured covered under an individual or group disability or health insurance policy. The fee was originally set at 35 cents.
4. Section 50-19-211, MCA, establishes the program which offers genetics testing, counseling, and educational programs to Montanans. Types of services provided are based on patient needs. Among other things, these services may include testing and counseling for familial cancer disorders, searching for a diagnosis for some problem following failure with other consultations, evaluating recurrent pregnancy loss or stillbirth, evaluating risk for families with know hereditary conditions such as hearing loss, blindness, neurodegenerative disorders, premature heart disease, immune deficiency, and abnormalities of the hair, skin or bones.
5. The Department conducts the newborn screening portion of the program. Through contract, Shodair has provided the services of medical geneticists, counselors, specialized lab services and other services not available through the Department.
6. From 1992 through 2004, clinical genetic patients have increased 24% at Shodair. During the same period, cytogenetic laboratory services have increased 175%. These services include testing for the risk of and treatment for various types of cancer.
7. Genetics is part of a comprehensive system of healthcare that can save health care dollars by assisting in accurate diagnosis and treatment recommendations. These services provide a critical link for patients and families to other healthcare, educational and support services.
8. In 1991, the legislature increased the fee on policies to 70 cents (see section 33-2-712, MCA). Under this section, the stated purpose of the fee is to fund the voluntary genetics statewide program established in 50-19-211, MCA. In 1995, the funding went from a special revenue account funded by the fees on the policies, to a general fund appropriation.
9. SB 275 - Raises the fee by 30 cents per/yr (to \$1.00), or 2.2 cents per/month, on each insured; sunsets the 30 cent increase while an analysis of an increased funding source is made; reestablishes a special revenue account for the purposes provided by law (33-2-712); requires the contracted lab services to be self-supporting; and preferably, for the Dept. to contract with a single entity to provide the combined, comprehensive program.

END