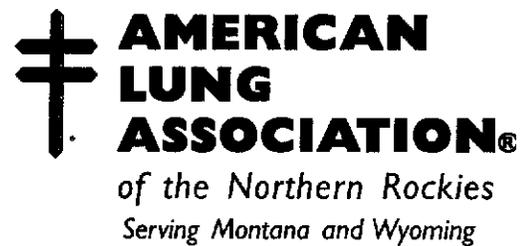


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EXHIBIT 16
DATE 3-30-05
SB 328

March 30, 2005



Representative Arlene Becker, Chair
Human Services Committee

Dear Representative Becker,

The American Lung Association of the Northern Rockies asks that SB 328 be either modified to include all other cancers including lung cancer or simply veto the bill.

We are not in any way against efforts to raise the awareness of or study the prevalence and care of cervical cancer or any disease.

I personally have been very involved with cervical cancer issues in the past as I was the Program Manager for the Montana Breast and Cervical Health Program when it was first developed, funded, named, and implemented (1994-1997). This included hiring staff, developing a statewide coalition, and the plan for outreach, education, service delivery and reporting. I also helped develop the first Cancer in Montana publication and a 5-year cancer plan for the state. For many years I also directed the Montana Immunization Program (1986-1993).

I am also pleased to be a part of the existing task force to develop a new cancer control plan for the state. This process has been going on within DPHHS and across the state for more than a year.

I find it a little more than interesting that this bill seeks to develop another task force when one already exists. That simply is not needed, would be duplicative, and a great waste of precious public health dollars and time.

I very much appreciate the tremendous amount data that is already readily available to and through the Montana Central Tumor Registry and the existing epidemiological resources within DPHHS. We do not need any legislation to direct the Department to do statistical analysis, when it already exists, and is being done. It's not necessary to direct this be done for only one cancer and for a disease that is of relatively low incidence. Prostate, breast and lung cancers certainly have a much larger public health impact and would easily merit similar legislation.

There is no need to also put into law a requirement for additional awareness on this specific cancer, especially when there already is a program in place (since 1994), specific for that cancer, and performs that in a very comprehensive and effective manner.

Not knowing why this bill was even developed, I suspect it is related to the section: "*identify strategies and new technologies, including any newly introduced vaccines that are effective in preventing and controlling the risk of cervical cancer*".

**When You Can't
Breathe,
Nothing Else
Matters®**

Founded in 1904, the
American Lung Association
includes affiliated associations
throughout the U.S.

We know and appreciate there is a new vaccine being developed related to cervical cancer. We hope that vaccine is affective and leads the way for more vaccines to prevent and control other cancers. However, we hope this legislation is not being used as a marketing tool.

Furthermore, there is no need to codify the need to research existing laws related to cervical cancer when its already done, and there is no intended purpose for researching those laws mentioned in the bill.

I am only addressing a few issues mentioned in the bill as even the remaining sections are already being done, making the entire bill unnecessary.

I believe that one can take just about any disease and replace the term "cervical cancer" with that disease and provide the merit to study and promote awareness and technology to prevent and control that disease. Although we always look to build community partners and coalitions, we are not going to ask the legislature for a similar bill to make public law for a task force on asthma, COPD, or lung cancer.

Sincerely,


Dick Paulsen
Executive Director

February 26, 2005

Chairman and Members of the Committee:

As an eight year Breast Cancer Survivor, I am writing this letter asking for your support in opposing or amending SB328. This bill endorses only one type of cancer. I am in favor of any bill that directs resources to help fight and prevent cancer, but not of only one cancer type.

The type of cancer targeted in this bill has a 2% incident rate here in Montana. We need resources dedicated to all types not just one in particular, especially one type with such a small percentage of incidents. So, I ask for your support in either amending this bill to include all types of cancer, or to oppose the bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Colleen Teberg
Breast Cancer Survivor
910 Lodestar Rd
Helena MT 59602