EXHIBIT 8
DATE Jan 19, 2005
HB

Montana Dept. of Public Health and Human Services
House Appropriations Committee Hearing
January 19, 2005

Written testimony submitted by Nancy McLane on the DPHHS Mental Health Services Program for Assertive Community Treatment (PACT)

I am very well acquainted with PACT because my niece has been a recipient of their services for the last couple of years. It has made a tremendous difference in her life. PACT has made it possible for her to live independently for the first time in her life (my niece is now 36 years old and has schizophrenia). Without PACT my niece would either be on the streets or institutionalized.

PACT helps my niece with very basic needs. She is given assistance with housing, shopping, laundry, housekeeping, and transportation. My niece is now working part time through the services of a PACT job coach. PACT also helps my niece with managing her money (a Social Security disability check). I believe that the cost of administering PACT is far less expensive than institutionalization.

Please do what you can to keep PACT fully funded.

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