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Madame Chair and committee members, for the record, my name is Becky Berglund. I am an adoptive parent as well as a therapeutic foster parent.

My husband and I have been giving foster care to Montana children since 1989. We initially provided care through the DPHHS and in 1991 began working with therapeutic agencies such as Youth Dynamics, Inc., Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch, and the PATH program through Intermountain Children's Home . We have also worked with AWARE over the years.

I have appreciated the support network available to us through the different agencies.

We have required the intervention of the treatment supervisor when my 15 year old foster daughter would self mutilate and purge. We have had access to competent and compassionate psychiatrists when our foster children have needed medications. We have needed the advise of the therapist when my attachment-impaired foster child insisted on living by her own

moral and social code—needing to be drawn close and held tenderly when her behaviors caused me to want to walk away from her. What to do with a 5 year old boy that vomits at will on my bed for attention? I have appreciated the trained respite providers and family aides when I have needed time to regroup— as these emotionally disturbed children take an enormous amount of parenting energy. I look forward to ongoing trainings that provide education in how to give effective care to hurting children. We often don't understand traumatized children or know how to help. I believe that foster parents want and need services to help these children go on to lead healthy lives.

I am very thankful for the services provided to our foster children and to us as parents over the years. I believe that young lives have been changed as a result of living with our family as well as receiving services provided by our state.

Our adopted daughter, Amber, has been the recipient of many services. She is having success in school, is making friends, is on the swim team and plays violin. We continue to work through emotional lows with her but she is definitely moving on. We are proud of her.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak and thanks for what you do and provide for the children.