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EXHIBIT 37
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Ladies and gentlemen of the committee, chair. I am Dustin Hankinson, a disability advocate and Summit peer from Missoula. To tell a little about myself, I have Muscular Dystrophy, a progressive disease that destroys the musculature of the body. I'm 29 years old and have lived in Montana my entire life, born in Superior before I moved to Missoula to attend the U of M business school.

The step from my sheltered life being cared for by my Gram in Superior to living in Missoula crafting my future was the defining decision in my life. This would not have been possible without the aid of Home and Community Based Services.

HCBS gave me the wherewithal to attend college when I was a ward of the State living with Gram and late brother in a poor household with SSI. They helped me get adaptive equipment, arrange housing and find social opportunities so that I wouldn't become isolated. They aided me in so many ways that I can't describe them here for the sake of brevity.

HCBS is tremendously important in the story of my life. They educated me and helped me attain the skills necessary to live independently. They helped remodel Gram's house to make the bathroom accessible. They helped provide emergency care when my primary care giver became suddenly ill. Most importantly of all, they provide people with disabilities independence in a rural State where it would be easy to become institutionalized and separate. The care and concern the SLTC people show to clients is truly a blessing. They were very supportive to my family when my brother Mike became ill and passed in July 2003. They helped make his final days comfortable for him and easier for us.

All I've accomplished is built upon the foundation laid by the HCBS assistance. Many others are building their foundations as we speak. They just need a chance to live in the community and determine their path...like any other person of value and dignity. HCBS are vital to them because these services provide a future. Meaning. Hope. Opportunities exist in the world of independence. HCBS is a bridge to freedom and life. On behalf of the people building their futures, I ask for you to strengthen these services to allow more people to live in freedom. There is no greater gift to give Thank you all for your time and consideration.