

EXHIBIT 1
DATE 1-13-05
HB 73

**Testimony in Support of
HB 73
January 13, 2005**

To the members of the House Local Government Committee:

The Montana Local Health Officer's Group is an informal association of public health officers from Montana's seven largest counties (Missoula, Butte/Silver Bow, Cascade, Gallatin, Lewis and Clark, Yellowstone and Flathead).

We rise in support of HB 73 – legislation that proposes to allow local communities to impose upon themselves, through a vote of the people, a property tax levy to support local substance abuse prevention programs.

As community health specialists, we have seen first-hand the effectiveness of prevention programs. Where state and federal resources are limited in supporting substance abuse prevention programs, HB 73 will provide communities with a local revenue source for valuable prevention programs.

We urge your support for HB 73 and thank you for this opportunity to comment.