

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Chelsea Carlson and I am here as a proponent of HB584.

It all started last July when I got a call from Marianne, the director of Grand Street Theater School, where I have been a student for several years. She said she got a call from a casting director looking for a farm girl about 11. I thought why not. So I auditioned in Bozeman. Got another call and went to Livingston to audition and again and again. Just when we were about to give up we got the call that we had been waiting for. I got the part. I was shocked but extremely excited.



Well the first day I learned a lot, but one of the most important things I learned was NEVER SKIP BREAKFAST!!! When we got there they had a nice breakfast available, but my Mom and I weren't very hungry so we did not eat much. We didn't catch on when everyone kept telling us to have some breakfast. About 2:30 and they were saying only an hour longer till lunch did we understand the need to eat breakfast if you are hungry or not.

But I also learned that an actor's job was not as easy as all that, it is actually harder than it looks. An actor has to be ready at all times to work. Sometimes you are filming for 4 grueling hours while other times you find yourself sitting almost all day just to find out that you waited all that time just to do one tiny scene in which you didn't even have a line! Sometimes it got so crazy!



But when ever it got crazy I could always turn to some of the great friends I made on set. My favorite friends were Melissa Painter the wonderful director and John Terry my on camera father and off camera friend. Both of them made the experience amazing, but of course there were many other friendly faces on the team.



A few months after filming we heard that "Steal Me" had made it to Sundance which is the biggest independent film festival around. We were overwhelmed. So the middle of January came and my family and 6 other relatives all met up in Park City and got ready for the premiere.

When time of the premiere actually came I didn't know what to say at first but pretty soon I had gotten the hang of "yes well thank you I'm glad you enjoyed the film", "oh yes of course you can take my picture" and "yes I'd love to go to the actors green room" or "oh you worked on the movie it was such fun to film", you get the picture. I was overwhelmed with more attention than I'd ever had in my life and getting to go to the "Film the West" cocktail party afterward was just as much fun. But of course I could not stay long because my own

personal fan club (my family) had arranged a party for me.

My parents have decided after much debate to let me audition for other films and commercials in Montana and surrounding states. But in the mean time I'm just enjoying being a normal kid well sorta...

To sum it up I just hope that this bill passes and that other actors, producers and everyone else that works on films across the state will have more door opening opportunities like the one I have had. Because I have to say there sure is a whole lot of talent in this Treasure State.

Thank you.

