



## Flathead City-County Board of Health

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www.flatheadhealth.org

Community Health Services  
751-8110 FAX 751-8111  
Environmental Health Services  
751-8130 FAX 751-8131  
Reproductive Health Services  
751-8150 FAX 751-8151  
Home Health Services  
751-6800 FAX 751-6807  
WIC Services  
751-8170 FAX 751-8171

### Testimony

March 11, 2005

Representative Karl A. Waitschies, Chair  
House Taxation Committee  
Montana House of Representatives  
Capital Station  
Helena, MT 59620

EXHIBIT 7  
DATE 3.16.05  
HB 724

Re: HB 724

Dear Chairman Waitschies,

The Flathead City-County Board of Health does not support the amendments to 50-2 MCA proposed in House Bill 724 or any of the amendments to that Bill that may be requested. The Flathead City-County Board of Health is a nine-member board of individuals from various backgrounds. Seven of the nine members are appointed to three-year terms by the Flathead County Board of Commissioners. The other two members are elected (a Commissioner and a Kalispell City Councilperson). Our membership consists of Medical Doctors, a dentist, a Certified Public Accountant, a lawyer and businessmen all very concerned about the health of our community.

Our Board of Health follows the same public meeting requirements as does the Board of County Commissioners. When we adopt regulations, we utilize the same takings and stringency requirements that are required of all policy making bodies in Montana. We have adopted rules that incorporate proper appeal processes. We take our responsibilities very serious and hold managers and staff of the health department to the same standard. Our relationship with our Board of Commissioners is strong, as all three Commissioners interact with the Board and/or Department staff with various committees and programs.

There is consistency in the Board of Health that is not exhibited in other Boards or Councils. Staggered three-year terms with many members willing to serve multiple terms predict this consistency.

The Flathead City-County Board of Health urges you to kill this bill. It is bad public policy and may weaken the ability for the Board of Health to recognize public health threats within the community and to take the necessary steps to protect the public's health.

On behalf of the Board of Health,

Joseph W. Russell, M.P.H.

CC: House Taxation Committee

*It is the mission of the Flathead City-County Health Department to assure the conditions in which people can be healthy through collaboration, promoting stewardship of our resources, and providing preventive health services to our community.*