

SENATE EDUCATION

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Testimony for HB184

March 7, 2005

Senate Education and Cultural Resources Committee

Bette Ammon, Director

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Chairman Ryan, and members of the Committee, for the record my name is Bette Ammon, director of

Missoula Public Library and Federation Coordinator for the Tamarack Federation.

Please support this legislation to change current library federation law. This change would allow federation memberships the ability to select their own federation coordinator through a change in the federation bylaws.

In the Tamarack Federation, the current headquarters library is Missoula Public Library and I have been the coordinator since 1999. Prior to that the Lincoln County Public Library served as the headquarters and that director was coordinator. It's been healthy for the Tamarack Federation to have variety in leadership and we can build on that if you pass this legislation.

While I have been pleased to have Missoula Public Library act as headquarters library, allowing other libraries a chance to serve provides valuable leadership opportunities. I know that in our federation, there are several library directors who would be willing to serve as coordinators. This will enrich the Tamarack Federation libraries and, as we all know, improved libraries have the potential to better inform and serve all Montana residents.

Thank you for your attention.