

LEGATE FINANCE AND CLAIMS

REPORT NO. 10

DATE 3-10-05

FILE NO. SB 428

March 8, 2005

Dear Senator Cooney and Committee Members:

I'm writing to express my strong support for passage of Senate Bill 428. District XI Human Resource Council currently operates 2-1-1 in our district. The District XI Human Resource Council believes in 2-1-1 and feels that it will be an important component in making our state safer.

I urge you to support the efforts to help protect and strengthen Montana's safety net by creating a 2-1-1 system for health and human service referral and disaster response.

2-1-1, an easy to remember telephone number that connects people with important community services and volunteer opportunities, is a cost-effective answer to help people navigate the complex and ever-growing maze of human service agencies and programs. Where 2-1-1 is operational, people can cut through red tape to gain access to a full range of community resources. By making these services easier to access, 2-1-1 encourages prevention and fosters self-sufficiency and civic engagement. It's efficient, fast, and easy.

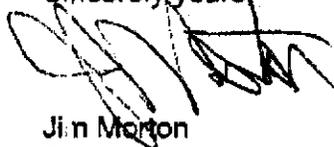
Without this legislation, there will not be any enforceable state standards or oversight for 2-1-1.

Without this legislation, it will be extremely difficult to implement 2-1-1 services across Montana.

With this legislation, a coordinated, standards-based 2-1-1 system can be planned and implemented. With this legislation, we can provide better access to services for all Montanans and increase the efficiency of the 9-1-1 response system.

Please support passage of Senate Bill 428 and bring this valuable service to the Montana.

Sincerely yours,



Jim Morton
Executive Director

Incapacity Assessment Services

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