



**Association of Disaster and Emergency
Services Coordinators
State of Montana**

SENATE FINANCE AND CLAIMS
SENATE NO. 71
3-10-05
SB 428

Senator Mike Cooney and Senate Finance Committee Members:

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF SB 428 (3/10/05)

The Association of Montana Disaster and Emergency Services Coordinators strongly supports SB 428, which would provide for a statewide 211 call center system that gives the public information during disasters and emergencies.

This system would take a huge burden off of the local 911 systems that receive hundreds of calls from the public during emergencies that are not a request for first responders during a life threatening situation, but are instead calls for information. This would allow the 911 centers to be free to do their job of providing a response to life threatening emergencies.

The 211 system would be ideal for the public to get information during disasters or emergencies by calling an easily remembered number. It would provide an important link to the public information system provided by Disaster and Emergencies throughout Montana. Please pass this important bill.

Paul N. Spengler, Coordinator
Lewis and Clark County DES