In support of Senate Bill No. 199

This inclusion of sexual orientation under the Montana Human Rights laws is long overdue.

In the areas of employment, housing and the other areas of potential discrimination enumerated in the amended sections of this bill, sexual orientation is as important and necessary as the other protected classes.

In an enlightened and progressive society in which we live, it is a given that protection for race, religion, sex, age and other classes is necessary for equality. Why then is sexual orientation not given the same protection that we have deemed is crucial for equality in modern society?

In this bill lies the opportunity for Montana's 59th legislature to see that equal rights are extended to all Montanans by including this long overlooked basic right.

I hope that this committee votes in support of this bill as is.

Wayne A Lewis
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HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE
Exhibit No. 6
Date 1-17-05
Bill No. SB 199