HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Judiciary Committee

WITNESS STATEMENT

PLEASE PRINT

NAME Luke van Helden **BUDGET** _____

ADDRESS 930 Cherry St. Missoula MT 59802 **DATE** Jan 17, 04

WHOM DO YOU REPRESENT? Myself, MT Human Rights Network, gay teachers

SUPPORT: X **OPPOSE** _____ **AMEND** _____

COMMENTS:

Good morning, Chairman ~~and Chairwoman~~ and members of the committee. My name is Luke van Helden. I am employed by the Missoula County Public Schools. I work in a special education classroom. I do not feel safe in Montana schools. I was born and raised in the Flathead ~~High School~~ Valley. While attending school there, I was harassed, bullyied, and assulted. I would like to be able to return to Flathead High School, but I will not be able to do so unless you pass SB 199. I urge you to vote "pass" on SB 199.

I would also like to make you aware that two close friends of mine ~~make~~ have ~~opted out of~~ discontinued their teaching careers due to their fear of discrimination for being gay men and teachers.

Thank you.

/s/JudicWitnessState.2003

Exhibit No. 7
Date 1-17-05
Bill No. SB 199