

# REASONABLE JUDICIARY Exhibit No. 1 at 1-24-05 Bill No. SB 241

# Reasons to Support SB 241

## ***Good Faith Protection for Court-Appointed Psychologists***

### ***Providing Parenting Plan Evaluations in Child Custody Cases***

**Montana Problem:** The possibility of becoming involved in a professional dispute before the Board of Psychologists has made experienced and competent psychologists less willing to serve as consulting psychologists for the courts in child custody disputes.



To protect Montana children caught in protracted conflicts of divorcing parents by encouraging experienced, competent psychologists to provide parenting plans.



To provide competent parenting plan evaluators to assist Montana judges in determining dispositions of these types of cases in the form of a definitive parenting plan.



Survey statistics show that of 2,413 complaints in 34 states only 27 or 1% resulted in findings of formal fault or probable cause against the licensed psychologist performing a parenting plan evaluation.



To protect competent Montana psychologists from the filing of frivolous unmerited complaints with the Montana Board of Psychologists making psychologists less willing to provide these needed services and in some instances lengthened the time of child custody determinations.



In 2002, 100% of the complaints filed before the Montana Board of Psychologists were related to parenting plans.



To provide an appropriate legal remedy for Montana consumers when action against a court-appointed psychologist is justified.

## **Vote Yes for SB 241**

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