



Exhibit No. 3
Date 2-8-05
Bill No. SB 351

February 8, 2005

TO: Senator Mike Wheat, Chair and Members of the Judiciary Committee

FROM: Joy Bruck, Volunteer Advocate, AARP Montana

RE: Opposition to SB 351 Allowing Gender in issuance and rating of insurance

Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, my name is Joy Bruck a volunteer advocate for AARP. AARP is a non-profit, non-partisan membership organization with more than 143,000 members in Montana. I am here today because 83% of our members are concerned about their financial security.

AARP is in opposition to SB 351 primarily because of our concern that it will lead to gender discrimination in pension and retirement plans. Section 3. of the bill takes out important discrimination protections for many retired women in Montana who live on income from pensions or retirement plans. In addition, the use of gender-based actuarial tables to determine premiums and benefits for life insurance and annuity products causes women to either pay higher premiums or accept lower benefits than men for equivalent levels of economic protection.

The current law was adopted 22 years ago and has provided important protections and benefits for Montanans. Insurance companies have functioned well all these years using gender-neutral actuarial tables and rating systems. It is a system that exists and works, so we see no compelling case to change. We encourage the committee to table this bill. Thanks you for the opportunity to speak on this matter.