

Phone: (406) 247-3200 • Fax: (406) 247-3202
123 South 27th • P.O. Box 35033 • Billings, MT 59107

SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE & SAFETY	
EXHIBIT NO. <u>7</u>	DATE <u>1-17-05</u>
BILL NO. <u>SB137</u>	

January 17, 2005

Senator Brent Cromley, Chairman
Senate Public Health, Welfare and Safety Committee
Montana Senate
Helena, Montana

RE: Senate Bill 137

Dear Senator Cromley and Senate Committee Members:

For the record, my name is Ted Kylander. I am a registered sanitarian and I represent the Yellowstone City-County Health Department where I am the Director of the Environmental Health Program. In Yellowstone County, the Yellowstone City-County Health Department has been successfully regulating tattoo establishments since 1999 and supports SB 137.

In 1995 legislation [MCA 50-1-202 (21)] was enacted to protect the public health by establishing regulations and standards for tattoo establishments. The process of applying a tattoo is an invasive procedure and carries an inherent risk of transmission of bloodborne diseases, such as Hepatitis. Until the 1995 requirements, tattoo establishments were not licensed or regulated in Montana. Unfortunately, in 1995, body piercing establishments were not included in the legislation. Piercing procedures are at least, if not more so, as invasive as tattooing procedures and have the same health concerns as tattooing.

Senate Bill 137 will require that both tattoo and body piercing establishments be licensed and inspected throughout the State of Montana by a regulatory authority. Local health departments may adopt rules, require licensure, collect fees and inspect tattoo and body piercing establishments. If local health departments do not choose to adopt such a program, then the Department of Public Health and Human Services will be able to license, collect fees and inspect these establishments.

After the enactment of the 1995 legislation, the Yellowstone City-County Board of Health adopted regulations for the licensure and inspection of tattoo establishments in Yellowstone County. Currently there are ten (10) licensed tattoo establishments in Yellowstone Co. All ten (10) also do body piercing. The current annual license fee is \$125. Establishments are inspected prior to opening and then one time per year or upon receipt of a complaint. There is at least one (1) business that only does body piercing. Under the current law this establishment is not inspected or held to any standards.

In the past five (5) years the Yellowstone City-County Health Department has received the support and cooperation of the tattoo professionals in Yellowstone County. The piercing professionals have also expressed their support for this legislation.

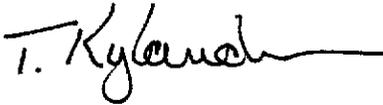
The number of people of all ages who are getting either a tattoo or body piercing or both is increasing rapidly in the State of Montana. In order to protect public health it is imperative that both tattooing and body piercing establishments be required to meet minimum standards of cleanliness and safety.

PAGE 2 of 2
TESTIMONY
SB 137

The Yellowstone City-County Health Department strongly believes that body piercing and tattooing need to be regulated to insure that public health is protected and will certainly add body piercing establishments to its rules and regulations that will require these establishments to be licensed and inspected upon passage of SB 137.

Therefore, the Yellowstone City-County Health Department is strongly in support of SB 137 and highly recommends that the Senate Public Health, Welfare and Safety Committee pass SB 137.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Kylander", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ted Kylander, REHS/RS
Director, E.H. Program