

SENATE BILL 257

TESTIMONY

BY

DORIS GILBERTSON, ADMINISTRATOR DISCOVERY CARE CENTRE

SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE & SAFETY	
EXHIBIT NO.	11
DATE:	1-28-05
BILL NO.	SB 257

My name is Doris Gilbertson I am the administrator of Discovery Care Centre in Hamilton, MT. I am here today to ask you to support Senate Bill 257. I am one of two privately owned free standing Skilled Nursing Homes in Montana. The passage of Senate Bill 257 will help Discovery Care Centre remain competitive in their endeavor to provide high quality Skilled Nursing Care to the elderly as evidenced by three years of deficiency-free long termed care surveys within the past five years.

Discovery Care Centre's current payroll budget impacts the local economy to the tune of 1.8 million dollars a year.

Discovery Care Centre is a 58 bed free standing skilled nursing home owned by the Watkins family of Missoula MT.

DCC is a stone throw away from a newly certified Critical Access Hospital.

Prior to its Critical Access Hospital designation the hospital's impact on Discovery Care Center's skilled nursing days was problematic. If allowed to expand its swing beds numbers beyond five it would be equivalent to taking a skilled nursing home admission from Discovery Care Center for each additional bed. What gives a Critical Access Hospitals the right to expand its long termed care skilled beds when skilled nursing homes are sitting with empty beds? An increase in the local Critical Access Hospital swing bed numbers will have a catastrophic financial impact on Discovery Care Centre. Currently Critical Access Hospital swing beds receive payment for skilled nursing services at 101% of costs. Discovery Care Centre's payment for the same services is 95% of a determined rate. Even with the discrepancy in

reimbursement Discovery Care Centre can ill afford to lose more  
bed days to the Critical Assess Hospital?

As a private enterprise Discovery Care Centre embraces today's  
health care challenges however; only by keeping the playing field  
level will we be able to succeed.

I urge you to do the right thing and support Senate Bill 257

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Doris Gilbertson".

Doris Gilbertson, Adm.