

VALLEY
VIEW
ESTATES
Health Care Center

SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE & SAFETY	
EXHIBIT NO.	12
DATE:	1-28-05
BILL NO.	SB 257

January 28, 2005

TO: SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Regarding Senate Bill 257

I am Kathryn Beaty, the administrator of Valley View Estates, a skilled nursing facility in Hamilton, and I am here to support Senate Bill 257.

In Hamilton, Montana there are 161 long-term care beds available for people need skilled or intermediate nursing care. According to the Department of Health, there is a **need** for only 152 long-term care beds. This results in a need for **9 fewer** beds than are currently available. Of these 161 beds, there is an 80% occupancy. Without SB 257, the Critical Access Hospital could possibly add another 20 long term care beds. Even if they only add a portion of that, it will affect Valley View Estates and contribute to even lower over-all occupancy.

It would be unjustified to allow one facility to **add** long term care beds without going through the Certificate of Need process while requiring another facility, in the same community, to go through the Certificate of Need process. Swing beds in Critical Access Hospitals should be treated the same as hospital swing beds, requiring a Certificate of Need.

Senate Bill 257 is needed to maintain equity. It is important that to the extent a "service" is subject to Certificate of Need, **any provider** of that service must be subject to the Certificate of Need process.

Sincerely,



Kathryn E. Beaty
Administrator



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