



SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE & SAFETY

EXHIBIT NO. 7

DATE: MARCH 11, 2005

BILL NO. HB 457

March 9, 2005

Senator
Montana Senate
PO Box 200500
Helena, MT 59620-0500

Dear Senator,

Subject: HB 457

I am the Chairman of the Department of Radiology at Deaconess Billings Clinic. As such, I was involved in the writing of HB 501 and actually testified on its behalf. Both the Legislature and the Senate unanimously passed that bill last year. I was also involved in the hiring of our first Radiology Assistant here at DBC. He is currently practicing under HB 501 and has been an excellent addition to our staff. He is providing needed radiology services to nearby rural hospitals where we can no longer send a radiologist. He also assists us greatly at our large urban hospital.

I am a member of the ACR and while I support this organization I strongly disagree with their negative position on this issue.

Radiology assistants are highly trained and skilled professionals that are very capable of filling an important role in radiology for the citizens of Montana whether rural or urban. HB 457 will better define their current function and supervision requirements. Please do not reverse the great step forward that you made last year. I urge you to support HB 457. It will provide vital radiology services to this state that would otherwise be unavailable.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald L. Darby", written over a horizontal line.

Ronald L. Darby MD
Department Chair
Radiology