SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE & SAFETY
EXHIBIT NO. 10
DATE: March 11, 2005
BILL NO. HB 737

American Academy of Physician Assistants
950 North Washington Street ■ Alexandria, VA 22314-1552 ■ 703/836-2272 Fax 703/684-1924

February 17, 2005

Representative Arlene Becker, Chair
House Human Services Committee
Montana State Legislature
Capitol Station
Helena, MT 59620

RE: HB 737

Dear Chairman Becker:

The American Academy of Physician Assistants is the national professional society for physician assistants (PAs.) In this capacity the Academy represents over 60,000 physician assistants in clinical practice across the United States.

The AAPA supports House Bill 737. The goal of this legislation is to:

- streamline supervision documentation requirements for physician-PA teams;
- correct the professional title for physician assistants in Montana law, and
- add a section to statute that will facilitate PA inclusion on teams that provide medical care in disaster situations.

PAs have been part of the health care team in Montana for nearly a quarter century. Montana physicians utilize PAs to extend care. Physician-PA teams are a critical component of health care in Montana, especially in the state's rural and frontier counties.

HB 737 will make it easier for physicians to utilize PAs. It will decrease the paperwork required to add a PA or supervising physician to the team. The legislation does not increase PA scope of practice nor diminish the physician's supervisory role.

This legislation has been carefully crafted by those who regulate health care in Montana, in conjunction with practicing physicians and PAs. We are confident that passage of HB 737 will improve health care in Montana.

Thank you for your consideration of this legislation. We respectfully ask for your committee's "due pass" vote on this bill.

Sincerely,

Ann Davis, PA-C

Ann Davis, PA-C
Director of State Government Affairs
American Academy of Physician Assistants