SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE & SAFETY
EXHIBIT NO. 5
DATE: 3-16-05
BILL NO. HB 162

Testimony for House Bill No. 162

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, I am Jo Ann Walsh Dotson, the Bureau Chief of the Family and Community Health Bureau in the Department of Public Health and Human Services.

On behalf of the Department of Public Health and Human Services, **we offer our support of HB 162**, which requires the school district to retain certified copies of immunization records of children who have transferred to another school district; and amending section 20-5-403, MCA.

The Office of Public Instruction and the Department of Public Health and Human Services, Immunization Section noted a conflict in state law concerning the original student immunization records. The Office of Public Instruction was following protocol requiring the original immunization record remain a part of the permanent record of the school of origin. The Immunization Section was requiring the original immunization record follow the student to the new school.

In review of records in the school setting, the Immunization Section has documented errors made when the immunization information is manually copied to another "original" form. The Office of Public Instruction has agreed to accept a certified copy of the immunization record for the permanent record in the school of origin, and allow the original immunization record to follow the child to the school district to where the child has transferred or moved.

This is a housekeeping detail, to address this conflict regarding disposition of a student's permanent immunization record.

Committee:	PH, Welfare and Safety
Hearing Date:	03/14/2005
Hearing Time:	3 p.m.
Place:	Rm 335