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Testimony before the Montana Senate State Administration Committee

John C. Board

Friday, March 18, 2005

Madame Chair and Members of the State Administration Committee

I am John C. Board, a resident of Helena, and a former 20-year resident of Great Falls.

I am here today to voice my support for Dr. Robert E. Wynia who has been nominated by Governor Schweitzer to be the Director of the Department of Public Health and Human Services.

I have known Dr. Wynia for 42 years. During that period, he was my personal physician for 39-years-and-eight-months. From 1984-1996, I lived and worked in the State of Connecticut. During that 12-year period, I returned to Great Falls every August for my annual physical, which Dr. Wynia conducted. The reason for that was that I was unable to find an internist in Connecticut who was as thorough in his examination as was Dr. Wynia.

One of the attributes I have most appreciated about Dr. Wynia has been his candor. In all of our conversations, I have never found him to be disingenuous in any way. We did not always agree on the matters we discussed, but I always felt that he listened to me and that our differences never interrupted our personal or professional relationship. I respect Dr. Wynia, because he is one who will argue with me. That has resulted, I believe, in the strengthening of my mind and it has caused me to be better prepared on positions I hold. Conversely, I believe that he, too, may have learned something from me. He is a good listener.

Having had the opportunity in my life to be a leader of a statewide education organization and to be a manager in a 20,000 member teacher organization, I believe that I have some insight into what is required of a good manager.

Among those attributes are the following: 1. The ability to hire capable and qualified individuals to perform an institution's purpose and mission. 2. The need to require and enforce judicious accountability of policy and personnel. 3. The ability to analyze existing policies, submit the findings to the appropriate governing bodies, and to actively listen and consider disparate viewpoints in the formulation of new policies or the alteration of existing policies. 5. To enforce all policies in a just and prudent manner even when one may not agree with such policies.

I submit that Dr. Wynia possesses each of these basic attributes, which I consider necessary in a good leader or administrator. Overriding all of those attributes are the honesty, candor, and integrity of the individual. In my opinion, those attributes define most accurately the character of Dr. Wynia.

Finally, should you question my political preference; I will tell you that I am a former Republican and am now a Democrat. More importantly, however, I strive to be a responsible citizen first. Be that as it may, I urge your support of Robert E. Wynia, M. D. for the position of Director of the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services.