



Montana Nurses' Association

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EXHIBIT NO. 3
DATE 3-18-05
BILL NO. SR-13

March 18, 2005

Senate Administration Dr. Wynia Hearing

Chairperson Squires, members of the committee, for the record my name is Sharon Howard, and I represent the Montana Nurses' Association.

The MNA appreciates the diverse, complex and dynamic nature of the services administered by the Department of Public Health and Human Services. The quality delivery of state public health services truly relies on the Department's understanding of the myriad of public health issues facing Montanans today. Knowledge and understanding of the public health sciences is critical to the formulation of programs designed to ensure environmental health and safety. In addition, the Department provides a safety net of health services for Montana's most vulnerable populations.

The Montana Nurses' Association has significant concerns about Dr. Wynia's ability to lead Public Health through the complex challenges presented now and in the future. The 15,000 nurses represented by the Association are not promoting a political agenda with disagreement to this appointment. We are publicly voicing the need for a leader with extensive public health knowledge and practice who can envision and communicate public health principles and practice for the betterment of the citizens of Montana.

We urge the Committee to seriously consider whether Dr. Wynia brings the necessary skills set and knowledge base necessary to successfully administer the largest agency in the Montana.