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EXHIBIT NO. 7
DATE 3-18-05
BILL NO. SR-13



Joint Commission
on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations

February 3, 2005

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

RE: DPPHS Director Appointment

Dear Senator Tropila,

As Executive Director of Intermountain Children's Home & Services, I am writing to express my concerns regarding the appointment of Dr. Wynia.

Intermountain provides residential, group home, day treatment and therapeutic adoptive services to seriously emotionally disturbed children. Founded in Helena, Intermountain has been caring for Montana's children since 1909. For nearly 100 years, our work has been made possible by caring donors throughout Montana, folks whom care about children and share our hope of healing and restoration. Daily, our various programs serve about 90 such children from across Montana. This year, Intermountain will invest 1.2 million private dollars to supplement the difference between the costs of providing these services and fees paid by DPHHS.

To say the least, Intermountain, and our thousands of supporters are stakeholders in the optimal functioning of DPHHS. With that as a backdrop, my concerns about Dr. Wynia's appointment are the following:

I do not believe that Dr Wynia possesses the necessary experience. In the private sector, the department's size, complexity and budget would put it on the Fortune 500 list. Clearly, there is nothing in Dr. Wynia's resume that qualifies or prepares him to run a Fortune 500 company, nor the department. The issue of relative experience and aptitude should be the primary driving criteria.

When this position fails, people get hurt. The director's role is about successfully managing and leading an extremely complex, large business to the benefit of our most vulnerable citizens. It is about managing resources and results in a very volatile, ever changing intergovernmental "sector." He may have been an excellent physician, but that does not qualify him for this vital position any more than being an oil rigger would qualify someone to manage and lead Exxon.

"Healing Through Healthy Relationships"