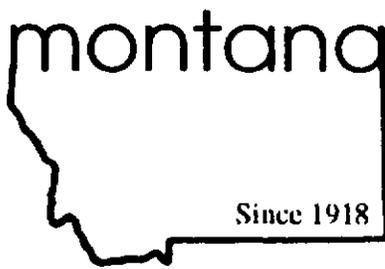


montana public health association



PMB 114 ■ Marketplace Drive Suite 28 ■ Great Falls, MT 59404

SENATE STS
EXHIBIT NO. 10
DATE 3-18-04
BILL NO. SR-13

February 1, 2005

Montana Senate
State Administration Committee
PO Box 200500
Helena, Montana 59620-0500

Dear Committee Members:

The appointment of Dr. Robert Wynia of Great Falls to the position of Director of the Montana State Department of Public Health And Human Services concerns the membership of the Montana Public Health Association.

We appreciate Governor Schweitzer's effort to "bring people in from outside the box to bring in new, different ideas." However, Dr. Wynia historically has not been a proponent of public health services in Montana, and we would hope that "outside the box" would include someone with experience as an advocate for public health.

In fact, the opposite is true. Dr. Wynia has a public history of arguing against payment of services for the underserved and marginalized peoples of our State. He expressed his practice philosophy when he said, "Our biggest societal problems are of a moral, spiritual and behavioral nature that government can't do anything about." This does not appear to be the philosophy of a medical professional dedicated to improving public health. How can this philosophy improve access to health care, reduce the number of non-insured and under-insured, and reduce the high cost of medicines?

Finally, the parameters of a general practice physician's responsibilities do not provide that individual (Dr. Wynia) with knowledge to understand, support and implement public health policy and practice.

We ask for your consideration of these concerns when making your final determination

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lora Wier".

Lora Wier, President
Montana Public Health Association