4th Att

01 February, 2005

SENATE TAXATION
EXHIBIT NO. 9
DATE 2-1-05
BILL NO. SB 332

S.B. 332 Soda Pop Tax

Senate Committee: Taxation
Chair: Jim Elliott, D

Good Morning Senator Elliott
and Committee Members

My name is Patti Farley
I am here today from
Lewistown — Senate District #15

I am the State President of
Montana Senior Citizens Assoc.
who represents ONLY the STATE of Mont.
By profession, I am a Register-
ed Nurse. I am retired
from a paying job.

I do a free foot clinic & support caregivers group

I Volunteer as a Parish Nurse
@ my church - St. JAMES
Episcopal in Lewistown.

I also volunteer as a Chaplain
on rotation, on-call at the
hospital in Lewistown.

Within my church community, I am
seeing many more elderly
parishioners + not nearly as
many young families.

When there is an illness, fewer + fewer are able to help with meals and transportation, groceries + delivery, some laundry + light house keeping. Even changing a bed weekly.

These are the people soon to be in need of Home Health care. NOT that they want it that way -- there may be no other choice. Many in this place in the aging process live alone - they forget if they've taken their medication - they may take it twice or not at all.

Just last week a parishioner didn't want to let anyone know she was ill because of no ambulance payment clause in her insurance + NO money to pay the charge. I am aware of a married couple $6000 deductible

I ask you to Look deeply into the eyes of these wonderful Montanans - these men + women who cared for us, worked hard + now it is their turn for care. They deserve this money for their programs + care.

These men + women could be your parents, grandparents + yes, even great grandparents. Think of them that way.

Please

Then, look deeply into your hearts and VOTE YES for SB 332 - a soda pop fee. A tax that does not ever need paid unless a choice is made to drink pop.

This is an exceptional opportunity to create a funding base for elder care in Montana.

Give Montana something to be proud of - a plan to fund our state's aging care now & in the next 30 years.

VOTE for SB 332 NOW.

IT'S really the right thing to do.

Thank you

Patti Farley