

**Testimony on Senate Bill 332****February 1, 2005****From: Rodney Keith, Director  
Liberty Senior Center  
Chester, Montana**

**Twenty years ago the Senior Citizens program in Chester was receiving about \$10,000 in funds from the Older Americans Act and State Funds on Aging. Today, we are still receiving about \$10,000 from these sources. The dollars have stayed constant over the years but the buying power of those dollars has steadily decreased.**

**The County helped by giving the program one (1) mill. One mill in the County 20 years ago was worth over \$21,000. That same mill today is closer to \$8,000. Combine that with inflation and you can see we are in a financially difficult situation.**

**We had two congregate meal sites for Senior Citizens in Liberty County until five years ago when the declining financial resources forced us to close one site.**

**It seems to me, that with an increasing aging population, we are heading in the wrong direction. We need to be increasing services to Senior Citizens – NOT decreasing them.**

**We need your assistance to accomplish this. Please vote in favor of SB332.**

**Thank you.**