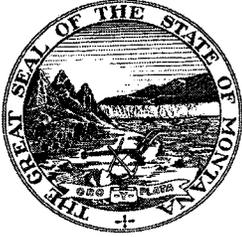


DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

EXHIBIT 4  
DATE 2/8/07  
HB 365



BRIAN SCHWEITZER  
GOVERNOR

JOAN MILES  
DIRECTOR

STATE OF MONTANA

www.dphhs.mt.gov

HB 365 Mental Health Screening in Schools  
DPHHS Testimony

Mister Chairman, members of the committee, I am Jo Ann Dotson, Chief of the Family and Community Health Bureau at DPHHS. I am here to offer informational testimony from DPHHS regarding youth suicide in our state.

Depression and mental illness are contributing factors to youth suicide. Montana's suicide rate for youth is one of the worst in the nation.

- There were 132 suicides among youth 10-24 years old in Montana from 2000-2004. (CDC WISQARS: [www.cdc.org](http://www.cdc.org))
- In 2005, 18 Montana youth, aged 15-19 killed themselves. This translates to a rate of 25.1 per 100,000 youth.
- Montana's target for youth suicide for the Maternal Child Health Block Grant is stated as 9 per 100,000, which is slightly higher than the national Critical Health Objective of 8.0 per 100,000 for 15-19 year-olds. (National Vital Statistics System (NVSS), CDC, NCHS).
- Our REAL target is that NO youth would commit suicide in Montana.

Schools are where a large number of our youth spend much of their time. This program has the potential to increase the capacity of school staff to identify mental health issues in youth.

**Action:** (H) Hearing

**Date:** 02/08/2007

**Hearing Room:** 102

**Hearing Time:** UPON ADJ

**Committee:** (H) Appropriations