

Disease and Surgery
of the eye

Small Incision Cataract
Surgery

Refractive Surgery

Glaucoma Evaluation 9
and Surgery

EXHIBIT
DATE 3-29-07

SB 417

MAR 28 2007

March 22, 2007

Thomas

Representative ~~Jonathan Windy Boy~~
Montana House of Representatives
P. O. Box 200400
Helena, Montana 59620-0400

Dear Representative Windy Boy:

I am contacting you to tell you to vote in favor of Senate Bill 417.

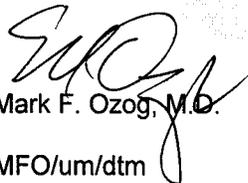
If specialty hospitals are allowed to occur in Montana, it would only increase the cost of healthcare and decrease the ability of the local community hospitals to provide excellent care.

What has been shown in numerous studies is that specialty hospitals basically pull good and excellent-paying patients away from the community hospital, and the owners of the specialty hospital only do the cases that provide them economic returns while they stick the community hospital with a non-paying or limited-paying mix. This will not allow the community hospitals to continue providing non-money-making activities such as drug rehabilitation, emergency medicine and other types of services. This will ultimately degrade the quality of the services being provided by the community hospital. Montana is too small of a state to allow the proliferation of these specialty hospitals.

Specialty hospitals basically exist to supplement the incomes of physicians who are having their pay markedly reduced by insurance companies. The real issue here is to make sure that physicians are adequately compensated for their services and that our community hospitals stay strong.

Once again, I ask you to vote in favor of Senate Bill 417.

Sincerely,



Mark F. Ozog, M.D.

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