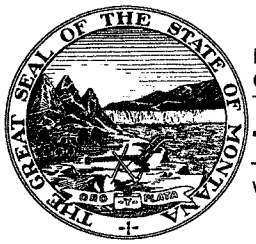
EXHIBIT 21
DATE 3/16/07
SB 289

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



BRIAN SCHWEITZER
GOVERNOR

JOAN MILES
DIRECTOR

STATE OF MONTANA

www.dphhs.mt.gov

DPHHS Testimony on SB 289

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am Jo Ann Dotson, Bureau Chief of the Family and Community Health Bureau in DPHHS. We provide services and programs for infants, children, women and their families. We presently oversee and administer the Fetal Infant Child Mortality Review (FICMR) program here in the state. The purpose of FICMR is to find out why children are dying and what we communities can do to prevent deaths in Montana's children.

On behalf of the Department of Public Health and Human Services, I encourage you to pass SB 289, which will allow pupils of public and nonpublic schools to carry and self-administer prescribed medication for severe allergies; amending section 20-5-420, MCA; and providing an effective date.

Severe allergies and anaphylaxis in the school age population of Montana's students can be caused by food (such as peanuts, tree nuts, shellfish), insect stings (such as bees, wasps, and hornets) and Latex (found in balloons, medical gloves and other products), and medication. [1]

Contact with the allergy- causing substance can lead to a systemic allergic reaction or anaphylaxis that can be life threatening. Treatment needs to begin with prescribed medication **within minutes** to avoid death or long term health effects.[2]

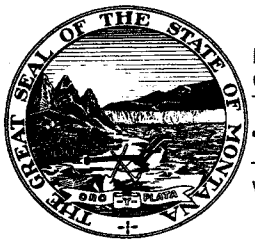
Forty-seven states currently have legislation to allow students to carry and self administer asthma medication and 37 states have laws to allow students to carry and self administer medication for severe allergies and anaphylaxis.[3]

If a student can carry their prescribed lifesaving medication with them, whether it be at school, on a field trip, or on their way home, they can use it as soon as it's needed, to prevent their own death.

Action: (H) Hearing
Date: 03/16/2007
Hearing Room: 137
Hearing Time: 3 PM
Committee: Education

[1] The Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Network
[2] The Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Network
[3] Allergy and Asthma Network, Mothers of Asthmatics

DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



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