

EXHIBIT 4
DATE 7-17-07
HB 117

St. Peter's Hospital
Department of Physical Medicine
2475 Broadway
Helena, MT 59601
(406) 444-2340

RE: HB 117

HB 117 is a no brainer. With the advances in hearing assessment and hearing aid capabilities in the past ten years it is absolutely unnecessary for any child to perform less than their full capacity due to hearing loss. With early screening, early identification and early intervention children with hearing loss can become fully functional adults. The human brain is hard-wired to maximize language learning from birth through seven years of age, with the majority of the 'wiring' completed from birth through two years of age. For this reason it is imperative that early identification and intervention be completed, with most efficacious results if loss identification and amplification are completed by 3 months of age.

The financial cost of newborn screening is recouped many times over when a person with hearing loss reaches his/her potential as an adult and becomes a contributing member of society (ie. state tax payer). With newborn screening and early amplification, the chances of an infant born with hearing loss becoming a state-dependent adult are minimized, if not erased.

Please support infants with hearing loss and our state coffers by supporting HB 117.

Thank you.


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Speech-Language Pathologist