EXHIBIT 2
DATE 2-23-07
HB 118

DPHHS Testimony on HB 118 for Allowing the Dispensing of Contraceptives by a Registered Nurse employed by a Family Planning Clinic Under Contract with the Department of Public Health and Human Services; and amending Sections 37-2-104, 37-7-103, and 50-31-307, MCA

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am Doctor Andrew Malany, an OB/GYN in Helena and a member of the Montana Family Planning Medical Standards Committee. I have been on this committee since 2001.

On behalf of the Department of Public Health and Human Services, I encourage you to pass HB 118. Contraceptive technology has and will continue to advance with newer, more convenient methods being developed. Currently, there are two new forms of birth control available that are not administered orally. These include the Nuvaring and the Ortho Evra patch. These methods of birth control contain the same medication that is in the oral birth control pills that are currently dispensed by registered nurses in the family planning clinics in Montana. Removing the word "oral" from the current Montana law will allow patients, served by these clinics, access to a greater variety of birth control options.

The new available methods (Ortho Evra patch and Nuva Ring) are safe, effective and convenient for women to use. Both last for extended periods of time, this helps to increase patient compliance with birth control, which should help to decrease the number of unintended pregnancies in Montana. Both medications are factory prepackaged and dispensed in accordance with the physicians written protocol developed by Medical Standards Committee, which specifies the circumstances under which dispensing is appropriate and will be in compliance with the board of Pharmacy requirements for labeling, storage and record keeping of drugs.

To reiterate, by passing HB 118 the word oral would be removed and bring the legislation up to date with current technology, would allow registered nurses to dispense the Nuvaring and Ortho Evra patch and any other new method that may be developed in the future.

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Hearing Time: 3 PM
Committee: (H) Human Services