



**Russell C. Fagg**

District Judge  
Thirteenth Judicial District  
State of Montana

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Yellowstone County Courthouse  
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Terry L. Halpin, Administrative Assistant

February 7, 2007

Rep. Diane Rice, Rep. Dave Gallik, Rep. Ron Stoker, Rep. Douglas Cordier  
Rep. Robyn Driscoll, Rep. Bob Ebinger Rep. George Everett, Rep. Julie French  
Rep. Rick Jore, Rep. Krayton Kerns Rep. Roger Koopman, Rep. Tom McGillvray  
Rep. Deborah Kottel, Rep. Jesse O'Hara Rep. Ken Peterson, Rep. Holly Raser  
Rep. John Ward

RE: House Bill 60; Civil Access to Justice Act

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

About a dozen years ago I had the pleasure of being on the House Judiciary Committee (my added pleasure was to be the Chairman), and so I can guess how much you are enjoying your time on this great committee. Since I hung up my cleats as a legislator, I have been a District Court Judge. It is as a District Court Judge that I write you in support of House Bill 60.

I will keep this letter short, as I know your time is valuable. The plain fact is that more and more dissolution and paternity cases have one or both parties representing themselves. In fact, in Yellowstone County, over 50% of the dissolution and paternity cases have one or both parties pro se. It is for this reason that I write you in support of House Bill 60.

House Bill 60 will help develop more self-help forms for pro se litigants. This is essential to helping people address their needs in a reliable and self-sufficient manner. Also, House Bill 60 will give pro se litigants more educational materials on how to represent themselves. Last, House Bill 60 will help coordinate efforts by pro bono attorneys, non-profits, and other volunteer programs to provide services to pro se litigants.

I could go on, but I won't. The sad fact is, when people are facing one of the most traumatic times of their lives (divorces and parenting plans), they are often doing it alone. This is very difficult. I believe this bill will help those less fortunate at a very vulnerable time in their lives. I urge your support. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Russell C. Fagg".

Russell C. Fagg  
District Court Judge