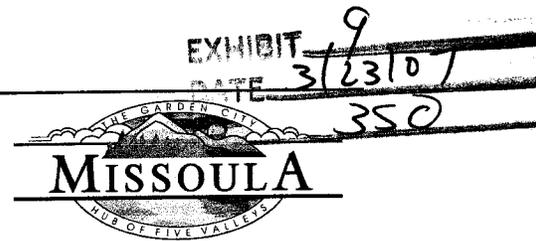


OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY
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March 22, 2007

Chair Rice and Honorable Members of the House Judiciary
Committee:

RE: S. B. 350

Before emergency services can respond to a crime scene a victim or witness to the criminal offense must be able to report what he or she has seen or experienced. If the offender or someone else interrupts or stops that call for emergency help, that interrupting of an emergency call for help should be a criminal offense.

S. B. Makes tampering with, or destroying a phone to interfere with a call for help a misdemeanor offense.

S. B. 350 is a needed change to Montana law that will:

1. Stop offenders from stopping victims and witnesses from calling for emergency help and
2. Hold offenders who don't follow the law accountable for their actions.

Please vote do pass on S. B. 350.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Judith Wang".

Judith Wang
Assistant City Attorney



Missoula County Sheriff's Dept
200 W. Broadway
Missoula, MT 59802

C.C. Ibsen
Captain
Uniformed Patrol Division
Missoula County Sheriff's
Department

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30 Jan 07

Montana Senate Judiciary Committee
Chairman Laslovich and Committee Members

Senate Bill 350 is, perhaps, one of the most important bills that you will ponder, toil over and pass this session. It is, quite simply, an attempt to guarantee that the victim of a crime will have the ability to call for help.

We all know that a bill cannot guarantee a criminal's adherence to the attendant law. It does, however, give law enforcement an additional tool and the victim an additional bit of potential protection. The prosecution of such a law would be one more step in trying to assist the violently criminal element of our society to understand that their actions are unacceptable and those actions will be punished.

In my 34 years of law enforcement I have personally encountered hundreds of times where a victim was unable to make contact with law enforcement or medical emergency help because the criminal who victimized them unplugged or cut the wires on or otherwise disabled the phone, or in so in some other manner made it impossible for the victim to call anyone. I expect to encounter many more of these type situations before I am done wearing the badge. In this modern era of cell phones, criminals often take the phone and destroy it or remove the battery or simply keep it in their possession so that the victim cannot call for help.

Your support and assistance in passing this bill and helping it get signed into law will be a strong message to the violently criminal persons that Montana will not tolerate their actions. It will be a strong statement that Montana will not allow them to victimize and/or assault, and then compound that hurtful action, by disallowing the victim's contact with potential help. It will be a strong statement to those on the front lines of protecting the citizens of Montana, your law officers and prosecutors, that the Montana Legislature actively supports and assists those who enforce our laws and take on the criminals for the good of the citizens of Montana.

Please send this bill out of committee with a strong "Do Pass" endorsement.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C.C. Ibsen", enclosed within a large, hand-drawn oval.

CC Ibsen



MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 31, 2007

TO: Senator Jesse Laslovich, Chair; Committee Members
Senate Judiciary Committee

CC: Missoula County Legislators

FROM: Leslie McClintock, Senior Grants Administrator and Supervisor, *LM*
Missoula City/Crime Victim Advocate Program

RE: Hearing on SB 350 – Thursday, February 1, Room 303; 8 a.m.

On behalf of the Missoula City/County Crime Victim Advocate Program, I write in support of SB 350.

Deputy City Attorney Judy Wang will be present at the hearing to put forth excellent reasons from a legal perspective for supporting the passage of SB 350 to make it an offense to destroy or tamper with a communication device during the commission of a criminal offense.

The City/County Crime Victim Advocate Program supports this bill because frequently victim's calls for help are interrupted or stopped by the offender during the commission of a crime. This behavior makes it more difficult for a victim in an already vulnerable place to get help. If this behavior is a crime, which it should be, that will give us another tool to hold offenders accountable and stop the violence. At least the second time that this happens, the offender will know that he or she cannot interrupt the call for help.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We encourage your support of SB 350.