EXHIBIT
Exhibit No. 6
Date 2-8-07
Bill No. SB 300

Committed To Excellence

February 8, 2007

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

The there are more than fifty-five hundred licensed emergency medical care providers in the State of Montana. We all are grateful when arriving at the scene of a motor vehicle crash to find that occupants were restrained and there are minor if any injuries. The same cannot be said when we arrive and the occupants have been ejected and are critically injured or dead.

We also realize that being restrained does not always prevent death, but the percentages are with the users. If you have ever come upon a fatal crash you know the heartache that is felt by responders knowing that just using seatbelts could have prevented the death. One death is too many.

It is being argued in this Legislature that people should not be subject to being stopped for not using their seatbelts. They should be responsible for themselves and their families. What should be and what is are not always the same. Driving is a privilege and when that privilege is abused, there should be consequences, and a ticket is a much lighter consequence than serious injury or death.

The members of this Association and other members of the Emergency Medical care community request that you put the best interests of the citizens first and successfully move this bill out of committee and through the Senate.

Sally Buckles
President

Montana Emergency Medical Services Association
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