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MONTANA ASSOCIATION
MT CDS
OF COMMUNITY
DISABILITY SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE & SAFETY
Exhibit No. 3
Date 3-16-07
Bill No. HB437

February 1, 2007

Dear Madame Chair and Members of the Committee:

My name is Francine Sadowski and I am representing the Montana Association of Community Disabilities Services in which I serve as President. I am also the Chief Executive Officer for Missoula Developmental Service Corporation – a not-for-profit organization supporting adults with developmental disabilities and intensive needs.

The Association is a proponent of HOUSE BILL NO. 437 introduced by Representative Dave Gallik. This bill will provide an avenue for contractors of DPHHS to have a dispute resolution process when disagreements between the partnering agencies arise. Currently, there is no process in place. This leads to frustration and ultimately a breakdown of communication; this interferes with us working together for the common mission of supporting eligible Montanans which each contracted agency serves and supports.

The passage of this bill will help alleviate frustration and allow for each party to speak its opinion regarding changes, policies, fund distributions and methodology, in a systematic fashion so that true and agreeable resolutions can be created. This bill will discourage a one-sided approach to decisions, but rather can foster a team approach to resolution ultimately benefiting the constituents of the individual agencies, the partnering organization and the Department of Public Health and Human Services.

We simply seek a formal process that will allow for our voices and concerns to be heard and acted upon collectively rather than unilaterally before long-term changes become effective that will effect how we conduct our business in service to others, many of whom are our most vulnerable citizens.

On behalf of MACDS, thank you for your time and consideration.

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