



EXHIBIT 7
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American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
3550 Mullan Road ■ Suite 105 ■ Missoula, MT 59808
1.877.488.7723 ■ 406.728.1004 ■ 406.327.0146 fax

www.acscan.org/montana

January 7, 2009

Representative Bill Wilson, Chair
Business and Labor Committee
Montana House of Representatives
Helena, MT 59620

Chairman Wilson and Members of the Committee:

For the record my name is Kathy McGowan representing the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network. ACS CAN is the nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy partner of the American Cancer Society that supports evidence-based policy and legislative solutions designed to eliminate cancer as a major health problem.

We stand in support of HB 151 and thank Representative Arlene Becker and the State Insurance Commissioner for taking the initiative to ensure that Montana state law that assures breast reconstruction to finally comply with federal law.

- The purpose of this act is simple and straightforward: To provide consumer services of basic health care that women have paid for.
- We believe strongly in the ability of a physician and patient to freely discuss and decide together what treatment, including length of hospital stay, is medically necessary and appropriate for the patient. To that end, the Society and ACS CAN oppose any effort on the part of a health plan or health insurance organization that seeks to arbitrarily limit patient access to available treatments deemed medically necessary by a physician. Section 1(1) and 1(2) of this bill would appear to take the right approach and allow the physician and patient to decide together what course of action is best.
- We are also very supportive of providing the best information possible to the patient regarding coverage. This is part of section 1(6) of the bill.
- Overall we see this bill as one part of policy which protects the rights of cancer patients and provides an improved quality of life for women who will be stricken with breast cancer.

In closing, the American Cancer Society and ACS CAN strongly support the right of a woman and her doctors to decide what is best for her, based on her medical and emotional needs.

Sincerely,
Kathy McGowan

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