

EXHIBIT 3 HUH
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February 13, 2009

Representative Arlene Becker, Chair
House Human Services Committee,

Dear Chairperson Becker,

I am pleased to be here today to support House Bill 292 on behalf of the Montana Public Health Association (MPHA). MPHA is an organization with a diverse membership, which includes public health workers as well as partners from other professions and institutions; MPHA promotes public health practice and policies in Montana.

The importance of the passage House Bill 292, Expedited partner care for Sexually Transmitted Diseases, to local public health departments is significant. Expedited partner therapy is an innovative treatment option for people diagnosed with the sexually transmitted diseases of Chlamydia and Gonorrhea. This treatment option has been proven to increase treatment rates and decrease the number of people who are reinfected. As a Nurse Practitioner, if I am able to provide the treatment for these two common sexually transmitted diseases promptly, I reduce the incidence of reinfection and also decrease the need for repeat office visits for testing and treatment. These repeat visits for reinfection can become costly for programs with limited financial resources and costly for patients who must miss work

Public Health programs are continually striving to find strategies to increase treatment rates for our patients and their partners, and decrease the number of people who become reinfected with sexually transmitted diseases. A recent study conducted in King County, Washington demonstrated that patients who received expedited partner therapy were more likely to report that their sexual partners were treated and less likely to be diagnosed with another infection at a follow-up visit, therefore preventing reinfection of Chlamydia and Gonorrhea, which may cause significant health consequences for our patients.

I would like to thank Representative Henry for bringing this important legislation forward and I encourage your support.

My best regards,

Cindy Morgan, NP, MSN