

EXHIBIT 26
DATE 1-22-09
HB 2

To, Mr. Chairman and the members of the committee

Hello, my name is Kira Foote; I am from Wolf Point, MT. I'm writing to ask for your support to continue funding these programs. MYLF (Montana Youth Leadership Forum), IL (Independent Living), Montana Transitions. We need to keep them going because I have learned a lot from these programs. Here is a summary of what I did in these programs.

In 2004, Martha Carster sen, introduced me to a program called Equity Outreach. We took a trip to MSU Billings. I really had fun and learned new things about my disabilities. I was feeling down and felt like I was failing school and wanted to give up and then my father passed away in April. Martha set me up with an Independent Living mentor named, Faye Blount, who helped me with my school work and helped me graduate from Wolf Point High School.

In 2006, I became a delegate for the Montana Youth Leadership Forum which I spent a week in Helena learning what I can do to help my disabilities. We then went to the Capital and later to the Chamber to help pass a bill for disabilities.

In 2008, I volunteered to be a Staff member for Montana Youth Leadership Forum. We helped students with disabilities not to be afraid to try things, taught them how to become independent and learn new leadership skills. I was nominated to be Emerging Leader in the Hall of Fame for Leaders with Disabilities. On September 2008, I went to Great Falls and learned from the three day workshops about Montana Transitions. Montana Transitions is in the process of beginning. I have not worked with this program, yet. On September 30, 2008, I went to MSU Billings to accept the award for Emerging Leader in the Hall of Fame with Disabilities.

Thank you for your time and please help to fund these programs for future students with Disabilities.

Sincerely,

Kira Foote

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

My name is Tomina Kinzie and Dakota is my second of 6 children. From his first years in school my husband, Scott, and I have wondered what is going to happen to him as he gets older. Will he ever be able to live on his own, hold a job, drive a car or have a family of his own? He has overcome unbelievable obstacles through his life. He is now a High School Junior, attending regular classes with only minimal resource room hours.

My husband and I are both Registered Nurses and have educated ourselves very well with regards to Autism. We have both researched resources for Dakota and found there is little available in our area. He is not profoundly affected by Autism, therefore, he does not qualify for many programs. In looking for a job coach for him, I found Montana Youth Transitions and Debbie. That has been a lifesaver. I can not tell you how valuable the conference in Great Falls was for our family. It gave me hope, understanding, contacts for Dakota, information, resources, available programs and helped me to understand the importance of fostering Dakota's independence.

I am requesting funds to restore the Transition Coordinator. With funding already so limited and resources lacking it would be a travesty to cut funds further. As parents, we want the best for our children. We desperately need your help continuing the current programs. There is so little available already, what will happen if we lose more?

Respectfully,

Tomina Kinzie

Tomina Kinzie

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Greetings, my name is Dakota Kinzie and I am 17 years old. I reside at Wolf Point with my family of three sisters, one brother (the other, who is the oldest, has moved out), and my Mom and Dad. I attend Wolf Point High School as a Junior. I was introduced into the program last year, in 2008. The first Transition meeting I went to was very educational, for me and my Mom who went with me. The youth leaders and whoever else went to Great Falls, MT to attend that meeting, were more aware of those who have difficulty in America's society and are more informed on how to support those most unfortunate through the My Life Program. It gives relief where they may lead a life where they may live independently and in comfort with a job suited for them so they live well have the possibility to be married and a good retirement plan.

However, these individual may not live up to their American dreams due to budget cuts to their program. I urgently request that the budget cuts be halted for the time being, until the program can ensure that their individuals can be ensured the future they want. We can not borrow from Montana's future and risk the poverty, homelessness and joblessness to accumulate. The only way to combat these vices of America is to prepare the young so they don't happen in the first place.

Respectfully,

Dakota Kinzie

Dakota Kinzie

Shane C. was born on 09/13/2006 after only 23 weeks, 3 days in the womb. At this stage, little Shane was not supposed to survive, as he was born "too soon". At his birth, his skin was not completely formed and was still transparent. His whole body was bright red. He only weighed 1 lb 4 ounces. He had heart problems which required immediate surgery to repair. He also had vision problems which needed surgery to correct.

Due to his premature birth, Shane has chronic lung problems, is very susceptible to lung infections, and has asthma problems which require periodic Nebulizer treatments. He also has digestive issues that will need lifelong treatment. He is delayed in all areas of his development, and is currently receiving Speech Therapy and Occupational Therapy, as well as Family education and Support from Family Outreach Inc. He is making progress thanks to everyone's hard work, but still has quite a long way to go to be at the developmental stage he should be. The family is very, very grateful for all the assistance that Part-C has given them, and "don't know where we would be without Part-C help".



S.C. then

11b 4oz

* * * * *

* About My Child: *

* My son was born 23 weeks *

* early and was not supposed to *

* live. He weighed 11b 4oz at *

* birth. He is red in his NICU *

* picture, because his skin wasn't *

* formed yet and was still trans- *

* parent. In the photo, you can *

* see my husband's wedding ring *

* on his arm. *

* He had to have immediate *

* surgery to repair his heart, *

* and another surgery to correct *

* his eye muscle too. *

* He has been through a lot *

* and is our "Miracle Baby" *

* *

* *

* *

* *

* *

* * * * *

S.C Now



* * * * *
* My Hopes/Dreams *
* for My Child: *
* I want my child to have a *
* "normal" life. I want him *
* to receive all the help he can *
* so he can continue to grow *
* and develop. I want him *
* to have a good education *
* * * * *

* * * * *
* Services We Are *
* Receiving: *
* Family Outreach Inc *
* Speech Therapy *
* Occupational Therapy *
* * * * *

* * * * *
* Services We May *
* Need Someday: *
* Hopefully, with the right *
* assistance now, we will *
* need nothing in the future *
* * * * *

* * * * *

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Dear Mr. Chairman and members of the committee,

My name is JoAnn Amundson and I have been a foster parent in Butte, MT for 16 years. I am imploring you not to cut or decrease funding for programs for children with disabilities.

Over the years, foster children in my care have received speech, occupational and physical therapy; tutoring and therapeutic counseling; and other special services to meet their needs. Without these services these children would not have learned to cope beyond the circumstances leading to their removal from their original environments.

Decreasing or removing funding from these programs will be disastrous. Children are our most valuable resource. The children who receive these services can be saved with proper early intervention. If we remove or reduce these programs now, we will only end up paying more in the future when these children are adults in prison or institutions.

Good early intervention programs such as Family Outreach can help break the cycle.

We have adopted three children and have guardianship of another child; all with fetal alcohol or drug related disabilities. One of these children is also autistic. The services these children receive have helped them to attend public schools and participate in ways previously considered not possible if not for the early intervention care they received.

We currently have another child in foster care. He can also be turned around with the right interventions. Please do not decrease or remove program funding. Save our future and the lives of many, many deserving children.

Sincerely,



JoAnn Amundson

EXHIBIT 26DATE 1-22-09HB 2**Billie Miller****Subject:** FW: Testimony (From Salveson's)**From:** Tiffany Salveson [mailto:t_salveson@yahoo.com]**Sent:** Tuesday, January 20, 2009 2:48 PM**To:** Billie Miller**Subject:** Testimony (From Salveson's)

We are parents of two children with autism. Morgan is 6 and Nicholas is 7 1/2.

Everyday their is progress with both our children. At the same time their are everyday struggles that us as parents face as well as our children face.

Simple things that some take for granted we get overjoyed about such as our children being able to communicate with us about their day or saying hello or goodbye to somone. Or being able to interact with other children and adults.

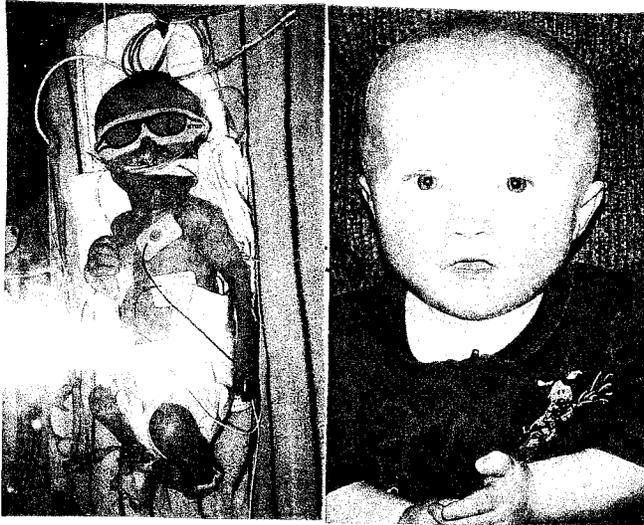
Our children both have speech and occupational therapy to also help with their disability which has also helped tremendously but, can also get overwhelming.

We try to do our best for our children and to make them happy and to also help them adapt to the community and everyday life. Gary & Tiffany Salveson

TO Whom it may Concern,
My name is Ruth Tyrrel I have two
Sons ages 11 yrs old and 9 yrs old. My
11 yr old has Angel man Syndrome which is
a rare Syndrome that very few doctors has
ever heard about it. William has been in O-3
program since he was 3mo. old. Before we
got the diagnosed at 15 mo old. Which at the
time we lived in Illinois. Since he got services
so early he has developeed alot more faster than
kids his age. But he will always be at a 5 year
old level and need care around the clock. The
service he gets here in Montana why we
have moved to Montana in the first place.
We recieve services threw Family Out reach
which he is on the waiver program that
has helped our family so greatly. Safty is
a big issue with William. It was very hard
to find a baby gate high enough and he could
not push down. So we found this big gate is
really for 65lbs. dogs. Such a God sent. The
money he got helped paid for pedia Sure once
he went off Wic. Medicaid refuse to pay for
four years because he was not tube fed. All
his life been on pedia sure to keep enough
weight on him. They also has helped pay
for enclosed bed and feeding chair he needed

So badly. He requires a lot of things to help him to improve his life. There are non verbal as well. They help make pictures so he can communicate what he wants. We have even one on DVD's movies gives him a voice than for people to pick for him. He loves choosing for himself give him a voice. We don't have transportation so they also take us to a lot of appt he has. Hab trainers are a good services for William he learns so much when he has one. When he don't he regrets back words has to re learn things all over again. That is a great services. We don't use respite only because he has so many seizures and hard to tell unless you have known him for years. They also has bought many sign language DVD that has helped as a family to better communicate better with William. He understands a lot more than people give him credit for. He has come along was in 9 yrs we have lived in Helena. Due to the services he receives. William is a very happy boy 24-7 Loves to laugh a lot and even loves to meet strangers as well.

Auth Sybil



My Hopes/Dreams for My Child:

As any parent, I want the best for my children. I want Jaxon to be an ordinary kid with ordinary problems. I do not want him to struggle. With the help of Family Outreach, we have been able to monitor Jaxon and make sure that he is progressing at his adjusted age. If he is not progressing, then I want to be able to have resources so we can help him along now instead of later when it will be harder and require more work for him.

About My Child:

My son Jaxon, who is a twin, was born 9 weeks premature. He spent the first 7 weeks of his life in Great Falls, MT at the Benefis Hospital NICU unit. Jaxon was finally able to come home, but he required certain services due to his prematurity and birth abnormalities. He was born with a club foot, which he had to have a cast on his foot for 5 months. He had hernia surgery when he was only 3 months, and he is currently scheduled to have his soft cleft palate repaired middle of January 2009. Jaxon has required occupational therapy to help with walking and with certain movements. After his cleft surgery he may be required to have speech therapy to help him along with his speech.

Services We Are Receiving:

We are currently receiving Occupational Therapy. Jaxon had a hard time with his movement, so a therapist was brought in to work with him. From day one, we have seen nothing but improvement with Jaxon.

Services We May Need Someday:

Due to Jaxon having a soft cleft palate, he has not been able to learn a lot of words. Once his palate is repaired, there is a possibility that he will require speech therapy.



* * * * *
* My Hopes/Dreams *
* for My Child: *

* to be able to speak clearly *
* without and speech impediments. *
* to be respectful and polite. I *
* hope to eliminate the *
* frustrations of not being able *
* to understand each other. *

* * * * *
* About My Child: *

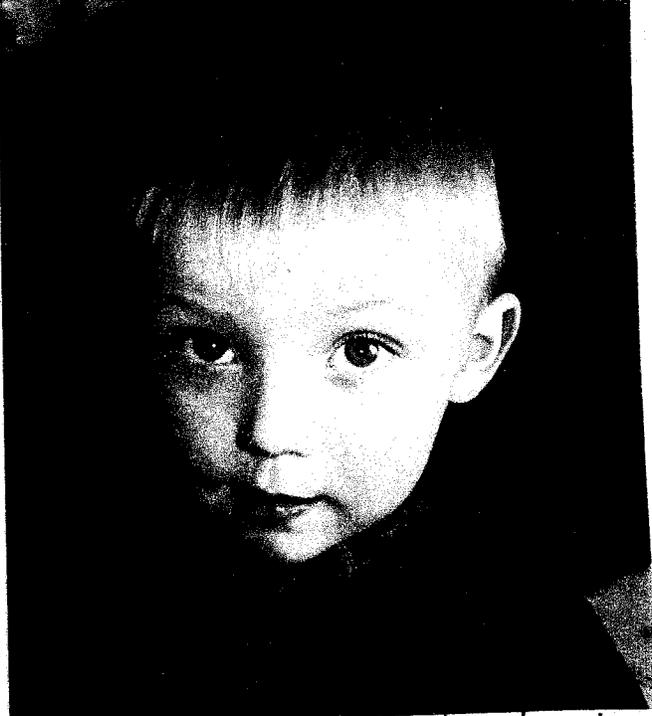
* Adyson was born 5 weeks *
* early along with her twin *
* sister Kinzy. She has always *
* been very sweet and such a *
* snuggler. On the other hand *
* she is very daring and is *
* always looking to push to *
* the limits. She loves to read *
* books and drawing is her *
* favorite activity. She seems *
* to be very artistic. *

* * * * *
* Services We Are *
* Receiving: *

* Speech Therapy *

* * * * *
* Services We May *
* Need Someday: *

* Possibly more speech therapy *
* and reading. *



* * * * *
* About My child: *
* * * * *

* Kayson is a *
* rambunctious *
* 2 year old *
* boy. He loves *
* horses and *
* ranching and *
* playing in the *
* sand box. *
* * * * *

* * * * *
* My Hopes/Dreams *
* for My Child: *
* * * * *

* To be an *
* outstanding, *
* successful citizen *
* and a good *
* role model. *
* * * * *

* * * * *
* Services We Are *
* Receiving: *
* * * * *

* Speech therapy *
* * * * *

* * * * *
* Services We May *
* Need Someday: *
* * * * *

* Speech therapy *
* * * * *



My Hopes/Dreams
for My Child:

As any parent, I want the best for my children. I want Gracie to be an ordinary kid with ordinary problems. I do not want her to struggle. With the help of Family Outreach, we have been able to monitor Gracie and make sure that she is progressing at her adjusted age. If she is not progressing, then I want to be able to have resources available so we can help her along now instead of later when it will be harder and require more work for her.

About My Child:

My daughter Gracie, who is a twin, was born 9 weeks premature. She spent the first 4 weeks of her life in Great Falls, MT at the Benefis Hospital NICU unit. Gracie has been fortunate enough to develop at her adjusted age.

Services We Are
Receiving:

Gracie currently is not receiving any services at this time.

Services We May
Need Someday:

Gracie is a little bit behind her age with talking. If we do not notice an improvement with her by the end of January then we will be requiring the services of a Speech Therapist.



* * * * *

* My Hopes/Dreams *
* for My Child: *

To walk
independently.

* * * * *

* About My Child: *

* Neveeh is my 4yr *
* old who is a *
* happy energetic *
* toddler. She *
* always has a smile *
* on her face & is *
* cute as a bug. *

* * * * *

* Services We Are *
* Receiving: *

P/T
O/T
Speech

* * * * *

* Services We May *
* Need Someday: *

* * * * *



* * * * *

* My Hopes/Dreams *
* for My Child: *

* To live in the Community *
* with some independence. *
* To learn to live with *
* his disabilities as he *
* grows. Hopefully to *
* be accepted as who he *
* is. *

* * *
* About My Child: *

* Cody is a 9 yr old *
* boy with autism *
* behaviors, Asthma issues, *
* enormous sensory issues *
* which affect his swallow *
* & eating. Cody has mental *
* health issues and is *
* an incise Child. We *
* fostered him from birth *
* until 3 and then *
* adapted him. He is *
* our "Jolly green Giant" *
* and tries so hard to *
* please and learn. Thanks *
* to Family Outreach and *
* our pediatrician Dr. Graham *
* he has made great *
* improvements, but has *
* miles of hard work ahead of him.

* * * * *
* Services We Are *
* Receiving: We are *

* getting Speech Therapy - *
* Occupational therapy & *
* tutoring. *

* * * * *
* Services We May *
* Need Someday: *

* Community Support. *
* Basic Home Support. Continued *
* Education Support. *



* * * * *

My Hopes/Dreams
for My Child:

That she will
walk and talk.

* * * * *

* About My Child: *

* Jacy is an only
* child who is 22
* months old. She
* suffers with severe
* hypotonia. Her
* parents are Spanish
* speaking, therefore
* a translator is
* used for her services
* therapies.

* * * * *

Services We Are
Receiving:

Speech Therapy, OT,
PT, Family Outreach

* * * * *

Services We May
Need Someday:

Further genetic testing,
Family Outreach as
well as Speech, Occupa-
tional, + Physical thera-
pies to continue.

* * * * *



* * * * *

* My Hopes/Dreams *
* for My Child: *

* *To live in the community* *
* *and become independent.* *
* *Hopefully, to get a job* *
* *within her capabilities:* *
* *To become as educated* *
* *as possible to help her* *
* *with her disabilities.* *

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* About My Child: *

* *Angie is a special Ed* *
* *Child in her school. She* *
* *has been diagnosed with* *
* *drug and fetal alcohol* *
* *issues and mild mental* *
* *retardation. Angie has* *
* *large & fine motor skills* *
* *issues. Angie is showing* *
* *signs of schizophrenia, which* *
* *is very difficult for all* *
* *involved.* *

* * * * *

* Services We Are *
* Receiving: *Angie* *
* *will be getting O.T. again* *
* *soon. She is also* *
* *being tutored.* *

* *We need all the services* *
* *we can receive through* *
* *Family Outreach, in order* *
* *for us to help all* *
* *children* *

* * * * *

* Services We May *
* Need Someday: *
* *Community Support.* *
* *Basic Home Support and* *
* *Continued Education* *
* *Support* *



* * * * *
* My Hopes/Dreams *
* for My Child: *
* To be able to speak clearly *
* without any speech impediments. *
* To be respectful and polite. *
* I hope to eliminate the *
* frustrations of not being able *
* to understand each other. *
* * * * *

* About My Child: *
* Kinzy was born 5 weeks *
* early along with her twin *
* sister Adyson. She has always *
* been soft-spoken and very *
* independent. She likes to do *
* things for herself. She has *
* always been great at sharing, *
* bringing her sister a cup before *
* getting her own. Her favorite *
* activity is playing with blocks *
* or trying to pull stickers off of *
* all of her toys. Anything that *
* involves working with her hands. *
* * * * *

* * * * *
* Services We Are *
* Receiving: *
* * * * *

Speech therapy

* * * * *
* Services We May *
* Need Someday: *
* Possibly more speech therapy *
* and reading. *
* * * * *

* * * * *
* * * * *
* * * * *



* * * * *
* My Hopes/Dreams *
* for My Child: *
* To be able to speak clearly *
* without any speech impediments. *
* To be respectful and polite. I *
* hope to eliminate the *
* frustrations of not being able *
* to understand each other. *
* * * * *

* About My Child: *
* Adyson was born 5 weeks *
* early along with her twin *
* sister Kinzy. She has always *
* been very sweet and such a *
* snuggler. On the other hand *
* she is very daring and is *
* always looking to push to *
* the limits. She loves to read *
* books and drawing is her *
* favorite activity. She seems *
* to be very artistic. *
* * * * *

* * * * *
* Services We Are *
* Receiving: *
* Speech therapy *
* * * * *

* * * * *
* Services We May *
* Need Someday: *
* Possibly more speech therapy *
* and reading. *
* * * * *

* * * * *



* * * * *
* About My Child: *

* Gabe is the last
* of three children
* in our family. He
* turned 2 in August
* and loves playing
* with his big brother
* and big sister.

* * * * *
* My Hopes/Dreams
* for My Child: *

* That he will be
* able to accomplish
* whatever he wants
* to do in life.

* * * * *
* Services We Are
* Receiving: *

* Speech Therapy -
* Catherine Griffin *
* Family Support Services -
* Family Outreach *

* * * * *
* Services We May
* Need Someday: *

