

2009 Session

Exhibit 7

This exhibit is numerous documents & letters - 3 large colored photos - a small portion has been scanned to aid you in your research.

The original exhibit is on file at the Montana Historical Society and may be viewed there.

**Montana Historical Society
Archives, 225 N. Roberts, Helena,
MT 59620-1201
Phone (406) 444-4774.**

Scanning by: Susie Hamilton

EXHIBIT ~~8~~ 7
DATE 1/27/09
HB 2

Good morning....

My name is Jean Bowman. I am the chair of the Missoula Aging Services Governing Board. Our agency is part of the Area XI Area Agency on Aging, which includes Missoula and Ravalli Counties. I ask the sub-committee to seriously consider the tragic consequences of failure to adequately fund this often neglected segment of our population.

It is common knowledge that our population is getting older, and many may need some kind of help with the basic chores of living—including help with bathing, dressing, eating, cleaning their home, and getting around town. Although most of our aging population does not need medical care provided by nursing homes, lack of subsidies or availability of these kinds of services very often results in their having to be placed in a nursing home. It taxes my intellect to understand how money can be saved by placing people in nursing homes in order to receive services which are available without being in a nursing home.

And yet these very services are the ones which will be affected under the Governor's budget proposal. In Area XI, these cuts will amount to \$164,000 each year of the biennium. Even without these cuts we have already had to start a waiting list for the Senior Diner Club that serves 960 limited income elders. This service provides both nutrition and socialization for people living in their own homes.

If the Governor's budget is approved, we will cut the number of meals delivered through multiple nutrition programs, such as Meals on Wheels. It's no secret that nutritious meals keep seniors out of hospitals, or keep them from returning to hospitals after discharge. This, obviously, is far less expensive than hospitalizations.

We will reduce the number of paid in-home services to low-income caregivers who are trying to provide care to their loved one, yet are experiencing mounting stress which risks their own health. Providing in-home services can help caregivers continue their job so that their loved one does not end up being placed prematurely in a costly nursing home.

We will reduce funding for transportation services that are essential for older people to access doctors, grocery stores, the Senior Center, and more. Being able to "go out" reduces the sense of isolation, reduces the likelihood of depression, and enhances both physical and mental health.

The aging population's needs will only increase with time. We can't prevent aging, but we *can* make that process less of a financial burden on both the state and the seniors themselves, by doing some long term thinking and planning. The services provided by Area Agencies are preventative measures that are almost always cheaper in the long run than a nursing home. And, they're always more effective because they utilize the person's and community's natural support systems, like volunteers and family, which are already in place.

We are fortunate to have several consumers, including some volunteers, here with us from Missoula, who have asked to provide testimony to members of this committee. I have included their testimonies in these red folders for each of the committee members.

Thank you for your attention and consideration of our request.

**Area XI Agency on Aging
dba Missoula Aging Services
Serving Missoula and
Ravalli Counties. 8 7**

Testimonials Jan 27, 09

EXHIBIT
HB 2

1/26/2009

Dear Committee Member:

Please read my letter;

Nobody ever thinks it will happen to them or a loved one. My dad sure did not think he would end up in a nursing home at age 35. It all happened so fast; a diagnosis with a type of muscular dystrophy and the next thing we knew he was stuck in a wheelchair and living in a nursing home. A nursing home is no place for a 35 year old; everything is geared toward the elderly; the food, the activities, the staff. He fought hard to get out and live as normal and independent of a life as he could. He would not have been able to live independently in the community without additional services from the Home and Community Based Services program. For the next 13 years, for the most part, he lived in his own apartment and that is what kept him going. Young at the time, I was not sure how it all worked but I knew that his needs were being met and he regained his eagerness to live. It inspired me to join the field of social work, complete my practicum at Community Medical Center's Home and Community Based Services and almost 2 years ago became a permanent part of the team as a social work case manager. Currently, we have around 300 people on our waiting list who are at risk of being placed in a nursing home or currently residing in one. It is worth mentioning that along with providing individuals the opportunity to live in the community as independently as possible it is also substantially cheaper. It cost taxpayers more money to support a person in a nursing home than to pay for additional services for them to live as you and I. I thank you for your continued support of our program. Please grant additional slots for the HCBS program so that others have the same opportunity as my dad and we save state tax dollars.

Along those same lines and my experience as a family member, a caregiver and now a case manager I also want to express the need for continued caregiver raises and provider rate increases. On a side note-please look at the term "direct caregiver"; it does not include key people as habilitation trainers and homemakers. These key people are excluded from some of the rate increases and the healthcare for healthcare workers, they ultimately are "direct caregivers". One of the biggest challenges I continue to see is the retention of caregivers, it can be a tough job and has few monetary benefits to offer. It is very frustrating for individuals to have to continue to train and open their home to so many new caregivers. With higher wages, it will stop caregivers from seeking other higher paying jobs. I hope to see a provider rate increase. The providers make it happen; working hard to obtain, train and retain caregivers to care for the individuals. I say individuals but at one time it may be somebody you know, somebody you love and we all hope but you never know it may be that we are in their situation some day. So today I ask for more HCBS slots, hab trainers and homemakers to be included under the definition of "direct caregivers, caregiver raises and provider rate increases. Thank you for your time and hard work.

Sincerely,

Cris Fleming Bloxom, BSW

Cris Fleming Bloxom, BSW
Daughter and Case Manager
Home and Community Based Services
4709 Canyon Creek Blvd
Missoula, MT 59808
cbloxom@communitymed.org
327-4690

Jan 22, 2009

To Whom it may concern;

My husband and I receive Home
Delivered Meals from the Senior
Center in Polson, Mt.

I am disabled and my husband isn't
able to fix the nutritious meals
we receive.

Sincerely
Toni Babock

We are ages 79 yrs and 81 years.

Ava L. Cook
1613 Lakeside Dr.
Helena, Mt. 59807
273-2276

To Montana Legislature

I am very concerned over the money Missoula Aging is loosing.

I am a senior companion at Msl. Aging. I take 4 ladies a wk. out to do there grocery shopping & out to lunch on their Diner cards. They & I would not be able to eat out without those cards & the aid we get.

These people, most of them, have no one else to help, or be friends with them, because we become very close. I can not do this job without the help I get. I get \$459. a mt., Social Security.

Thank you for the wonderful work you do.

Ava L. Cook

To whom it may concern:

My name is Mary Crawford
I am in support of backing
the funding for Missoula aging
service.

Sincerely,
Mary Crawford

My name is Mary Crawford
and I am a senior companion.
I am all for being a senior
companion by helping our seniors
in their homes or living as
independently as they can -

1/24/2009

Dear Montana Legislature,

My name is Jonell Dean. I am a participant in the Senior Companion Program at Missoula Aging Services.

As a senior companion I assist seniors who live alone and who so value their independence. I take them grocery shopping, to their doctor and other important appointments and help them with chores. We sometimes go to lunch or just go sit in the park on a nice day. We share in conversation and develop true friendship and love as our time together grows. We both look forward to our day once a week. This senior companion program is just so wonderful in that we able seniors can help the needy seniors in their quest to live independently. The program keeps the elderly young and healthy in mind, body and spirit. The program also helps this great state of Montana in that it keeps seniors out of nursing homes and saves a lot of health care dollars.

I have four senior clients and work sixteen hours per week in assisting them. I receive a tax-free stipend for my assistance and an allowance for gas mileage. The stipend and gas allowance is very important as I could not afford to participate in the Senior Companion Program without it. I am retired and live on my meager social security benefit and after paying all my necessary living expenses there is little money left over. So this wonderful program is absolutely a win-win.

I am writing this letter to support the much needed funding for ten million dollars. The new budget has no money for us, the many seniors that live in this great state. I just don't understand why the governor cancelled the money for senior services?? Please, all of you that hold the vast elderly populations fate in your hands... Vote yes on the 10 million dollars that is so needed to help volunteers take care of the aged in their quest to remain living independently and saves Montana much in health care dollars.

Sincerely,

Jonell Dean

JAN.24, 2009

GENTLEMEN OF THE BOARD :

MY NAME IS PAULINE DEAN, I AM 74 Y.O., AND I AM CURRENTLY SERVING AS

A FOSTER GRANDPARENT @ HELLGATE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, IN

MISSOULA. I AM IN MY 3rd YEAR OF ASSISTING WITH THE

KINDERGARTNERS. AT THIS PARTICULAR SCHOOL, WE HAVE 7

KINDERGARTEN CLASSES, AND I GO TO EACH ONE OF THEM, IN TURN.

I WANT TO IMPRESS ON EVERYONE HERE TODAY, WHO IS DELIBERATING ON THE NECESSITY OF THIS PROGRAM, THAT THIS SERVICE IS INVALUABLE..

OUR TEACHERS ARE SO OVERWHELMED WITH THE TEACHING ITSELF, WITH SO MANY CHILDREN TO GET TO, PLUS EVERYTHING THEY NEED TO DO FOR

THEIR CLASS, THEY JUST DO NOT GET ENOUGH 1-on-1 TIME WITH EACH

LITTLE ONE. WHEREAS THE F. GRANDPARENT IS ABLE TO GIVE PERSONAL

ATTENTION TO EACH AND EVERYONE IN THAT CLASS . THERE IS THE

BASHFUL CHILD, WHO NEEDS ENCOURAGEMENT, THERE IS THE LONELY

ONE, WHO DOES NOT SEEM TO FIT IN , THERE IS THE UNRULY CHILD, WHO

WILL BENEFIT BY THE ATTENTION & KINDNESS HE RECEIVES FROM US, AND

ALL OTHERS IN BETWEEN WHO NEED EXTRA HELP AND SUPPORT.

WHATEVER THE TEACHER NEEDS, WE ARE THERE TO PITCH IN AND HELP GET IT DONE.

OUR MAIN OBJECTIVE IN THE CLASSROOM IS TO LISTEN TO THE STUDENTS

READ AND TO FOLLOW UP ON ON THE TEACHER'S INSTRUCTIONS. WE

COACH THEM, YOU MIGHT SAY. REPETITION IS SO VALUABLE IN HELPING

THE CHILDREN RETAIN WHAT THEY LEARN, THAT IF THAT IS ALL WE DO, WE PROVIDE A VALUABLE SERVICE. BUT OF COURSE, WE DO SO MUCH MORE, AS TIME PERMITS, AND AS THE TEACHER DEEMS NECESSARY.

THE STIPEND WE, AS F. G.'S, RECEIVE IS SO IMPORTANT IN THIS ISSUE.

THOUGH WE LOVE THE CHILDREN, AND ENJOY OUR WORK, THE COMMITMENT CAN BE DEMANDING, FATIGUING, AND DEPRIVING US OF OUR PERSONAL TIME.

WE START OUR DAY PRETTY EARLY IN THE MORNING, EVERY MORNING.

BUT THE STIPEND WE RECEIVE EACH MONTH IS A GREAT INCENTIVE TO THOSE OF US WHO LIVE ON A LIMITED INCOME .

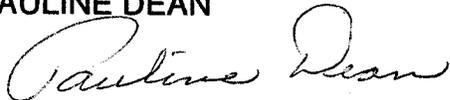
AS OUR EXPENSES GO UP EACH YEAR, WE FIND IT HARDER TO MAKE ENDS MEET, AND SO THIS PROGRAM IS VERY IMPORTANT TO US AS WELL AS TO OUR COMMUNITY.

IT HELPS US TO KEEP UP WITH INFLATION, AND AT THE SAME TIME, ALLOWS US TO HELP OUR YOUNG PEOPLE. YOU HAVE UNDOUBTEDLY HEARD THE SAYING, "TODAY'S YOUTH ARE OUR FUTURE FOR TOMORROW."

BUT IF WE **DON'T** LOOK AFTER AND CARE FOR OUR YOUTH TODAY, WHAT KIND OF FUTURE WILL WE ALL HAVE ? THAT IS APPARENTLY UP TO YOU NOW!

SINCERELY,

PAULINE DEAN

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pauline Dean".A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Foster Grandparent".

Clare Delaney
1094 Anglers Bend Way
Missoula, Montana 59802

January 17, 2009

Legislative Committee
Helena, Montana

To Whom It May Concern:

As a primary caregiver for my husband I have benefited greatly from numerous services offered at Missoula Aging Services. The programs we have utilized include:

- Information and Assistance
- The Respite Program
- The Senior Companion Program

In 2006 when I first went to Missoula Aging Services I had numerous one-on-one consultations with resource specialists. They provided education and information on a number of topics: Medicare Part D, Long Term Care Insurance, Long Term Planning Options, Caregiver Support Groups, Education for Caregivers, and other pertinent resources in the community. Through these initial meetings I was referred to the Respite Program and the Senior Companion Program. The respite program coordinator came to my home and helped us get the assistance we needed through a local home care agency, she provided professional insight and also emotional support to guide us through this difficult stage of life. The Senior Companion Program matched my husband with a companion who comes once per week for 4 hours. The bond they have formed and the service she provides is priceless.

Through Missoula Aging Services I have received information on resources, financial support, emotional support and the opportunity to meet other caregivers who have provided their insight and support. I do not know of any other agency in Missoula that provides such a comprehensive array of services for caregivers. I am so grateful for this valuable community service which provides a much needed assistance to informal caregivers like myself.

Sincerely,


Clare Delaney

To whom it may concern:

I am a senior citizen living in Missoula, Montana. I am living on social security, at the Clark Fork Manor apartments. I earn \$5, 632, a year. Medicare Part B premium \$1,156.80 is deducted from this amount, leaving me \$4,476.00 a year to live on.

I am writing this letter to share that I am so thankful for aging service, which provided a monthly stiffen check which enables me to have supplemental income to allow for a better quality of living than I am capable of on my own.

Please, make no mistake. This letter is not just about me. My work with aging services is in the capacity, of Foster Grandmother. I assist young children to learn to read and write. I work with two teachers and give one on one support to forty students, who are just beginning their education. You can see the immediate impact of my one position is on 43 people not counting their parents and any peripheral people that could also be mentioned.

I am asking you to please support this program by not cutting our budget and allow the program more money as needed.

Sincerely,

Billie Dixon 01-22-09

Billie Dixon

301 West Front Apt #403

Missoula, Montana 59803

406-493-0153

Alicia Crandall

From: Robert Dorion [bobandbev1@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, January 23, 2009 4:01 PM
To: Alicia Crandall
Subject: Helena

I don't know what committee this is going to be sent before.

Committee Members"

I am a Volunteer at the Missoula Department of Ageing for the past three years and feel that I am in a position to speak in defence of the Organization. I was taken back 68 years by a statement that the President made in His Speech and I will quote it {IT IS TIME TO GET UP AN SHAKE OFF THE DUST} 68 Years ago this Country came together as one as our backs were against the wall and every one helped to get the Victory. Now is not the time to cut programs that are working, start by cutting the pork out and don't start at the bottom, but at the top. Cut the programs that have no bearing on the present situation we are faced with now. Let us all Volunteer to help solve this problem and get this Victory over greed.

Thank You
Robert A Dorion

P.S

My pay was 21 Dollars a month plus room and board.

Windows Live™: E-mail. Chat. Share. Get more ways to connect. [Check it out.](#)

January 22, 2009

Dear Home Delivered Clients,

I received a e-mail from Duane from Area Agency about the State Funding for the Seniors of Lake County. He asked for letters from Senior whose lives have been changed through receiving Home Delivered meals. If you could write a letter stating the fact of your situation and how the services received assisted you to stay at home and continue a productive life.

If the meals help you for a short time after a illness or if the meals were a help in any other way.

I know this is short notice, but if you could do this today(Thursday) and give the letter back to Dave on Friday it would really help us over in Helena when they are requesting money before the Joint Finance Committee.

Thanks,



Jo Durand
Nutrition Director

I James Fleming #
I have had heart surgery + just had toe
surgery, I have been destitute before
I could not do with out meal on weeks
~~and home care~~ and I have an assist to
make my bed and cook + clean

James Fleming #

Susan Kohler

From: RAY PETE BILLIE GARDNER [Bill3754711@msn.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 25, 2009 2:31 PM
To: Susan Kohler
Subject: Fw: Cut in Assistance to Seniors - send to Montana Legislature/ Susan Kohler

----- Original Message -----

From: RAY PETE BILLIE GARDNER
To: skohler@missoulaagingservicees.com
Sent: Friday, January 23, 2009 4:25 PM
Subject: Cut in Assistance to Seniors - send to Montana Legislature/ Susan Kohler

To My Legislators:

My name is Billie Gardner. I am a 71 year old, disabled woman. I volunteer as a Foster Grandparent at Frenchtown Elementary School. I receive a small stipend from Missoula Ageing Services for my services.

This position has given me a purpose in life that I thought I would never have because due to three back surgeries and a peripheral neuropathy, I have been unable to find employment. I thought I was just going to have to sit in my home and watch the world go by. I answered an article in the Missoulian where it said it needed Foster Grandparents in the Frenchtown Elementary School, and was accepted.

I love children. When my own were growing up, I was a Den Mother, a Camp Fire Leader, a Blue Bird leader, and now I have ten grandchildren of my own. They are all pretty much grown up now, so I had a distinct void in my life.

The Foster Grandparent Program has given my life new meaning. I have a reason to get up in the morning. I love the children, and believe that they love me. Some of them have never had a grandparent before. I am known as "Grandma Billie" at school. They tell me their troubles, I tie their shoes, zip their coats, and help them with reading, math, and art projects. They join me for lunch and are very considerate of me as I hobble down the hall on my cane. I have the time to listen to them one on one and try to make each one feel special for a few minutes each day. This is a win-win situation.

The stipend I receive, plus the allowance for mileage gives me about \$250 per month. It is not much, but it helps us make ends meet. It pays our fuel bill and buys a few groceries. We struggle now, and I would hate to think of how it would be if we no longer received the stipend.

I am asking you, NO, begging you, not to cut the funding for the Ageing Services programs. It is a wonderful organization and provides many services for the elderly and the needy. Surely there must be another place to cut rather than on the backs of the elderly.

PLEASE DON'T CUT THE FUNDING. IF ANYTHING, GIVE IT AN INCREASE.

Thank you.

Billie Gardner
14947 Reece Court
Missoula, MT 59808

Phone: 406-626-5442



UniVision, Inc.

P.O. Box 4125

Missoula, MT 59806

(406) 721-8876 fax: (406) 721-0810

email: jim@univision-computers.com

January 26th, 2009

Subject: Missoula Aging Services Funding

Dear Madam Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

This letter is to express my support for continued funding of Missoula Aging Services. This program has been vital to the well being and quality of living for not only my Mother, but more seniors then I can count in our community.

Because of the program, many of our seniors have been able to contribute needed services to our community. The program truly affects more then the seniors. I hope we can keep our seniors productive in our communities.

With the economy the way it is, and without the program; I just don't see what will be able to fill the gap of support our seniors need and deserve to maintain their quality of life.

The government seems to be on thea bail out train for a lot of industries these days. Let's don't continue to do it at our grandparent's expense.

Respectfully Submitted

Jamie S. Green

Jim Green
President
UniVision Computers

January 22, 2009

Dear Jo D. Wood - Nutrition Director

Yes - The home delivered meals are wonderful for me.

1. Since I don't drive it is less work for my son who does all my driving either taking me or taking the grocery list I give him. It is much easier to just pay the driver of the meals on wheels. So - makes me feel more independent.

2. It is always a pleasure to get to know the drivers who deliver the meals - living alone gets lonesome especially if you are a newcomer to the community. I came from North Dakota so I could live near 2 of my sons here in Polson.

3. I never did like to cook! The cook here in Polson is a much better cook. All the meals are good - well balanced and enjoyable.

4. Considering the cost of food plus the cost of gas to go to the grocery store - meals on wheels is a bargain as it is at present.

5. I'm 90 years old so getting a good meal at noon makes it possible for me to continue to live alone in my own apartment instead of an assisted living or nursing home.

Sincerely -

Burnette Guthrie



Burnette Guthrie
Apt. 4
102 Kootenai Ave.
Polson, MT 59860

January 9, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Denise May, my parents and I have used a variety of services through Missoula Aging Services for several years. I don't know what we would have done without their help, information, services and guidance.

My parents who are 94 and 89 moved in with me over five years ago because they could no longer live alone. I found out about Missoula Aging Service shortly after my parents moved in because I was in need of information and guidance to help me support and take care of my parents. We have utilized several of their programs including Meals on Wheels, Senior Companions, Caregivers Powerful tools workshop, Caregivers Support Group and Medical Benefits Assistance. Each contact with Missoula Aging Services has been a satisfying experience because I have worked with competent knowledgeable staff that have a strong network of services to offer.

Utilizing the Meals on Wheels program means that my parents get a balanced meal that the Home care workers can serve to them. In my father's words, "The food is good, so far there is nothing that I haven't liked—except for the rice, they have too much rice, but we were able to change that by telling them we don't like rice and they gave us more vegetables. That was fine with me." My mother commented, "The food is good. They have a lot of chicken and I think that is good for people to eat and now we get more vegetables instead of rice, it is nice they are able to accommodate us old folks."

I contacted Missoula Aging Services for information about Medicaid and they were very helpful walking me through an extremely complex system. They were able to offer me assistance and information whenever I needed it. Whew! I needed help with that one.

The Senior Companion who comes weekly brings a much needed break to the daily routine. He is according to my parents, "very nice, friendly and a well mannered man who is easy to talk with. He enjoys sharing stories about long ago as well as discussing current issues." I also met the Senior Companion who comes to visit my parents and I was impressed with his pleasant demeanor and friendly personality.

When my parents moved in, I had no idea what I was getting into. I attended the Caregivers Powerful tools class where I learned I need to take care of myself first in order to give good care to my parents; that was something that I had let slip away.

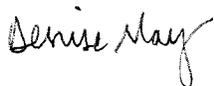
I attended the Missoula Aging Services Caregivers Support Group and was able to hear how other people who were also caring for their parents were handling their situations. I was able to glean ideas and information from them, often leaving the meetings feeling better about my situation in comparison to their situations.

Just last month I again contacted Missoula Aging Service for their help with information about the Medicare Part D program. It was the end of the year and time to see if my parents should stay with the Medicare Part D Agency from 2008 or pick a new agency that will fit their prescription needs better. Missoula Aging Services was able to help me yet once again,

providing information about which agency would best suit my parent's prescription needs and save them money on their prescriptions.

My parent's health has changed in the last five years and my mother has gone from walking independently to walking with a walker. Missoula Aging Service has some used equipment that we were able to have instead of buying costly equipment and if they didn't have the equipment, they referred me to other places where I was able to obtain the equipment.

In short Missoula Aging Services provides necessary services to the community. I don't know what my parents and I would have done without their help, knowledge, expertise, variety of programs and guidance. Please support Missoula Aging Service with funding to continue their essential services. You never know when your parents will be moving in with you and you will be next in need of their services.



Denise May
111 Pattee Canyon Drive #14
Missoula, MT 59803
406.546.9651

January 20, 2009

To whom it May Concern,

Thank you for the privilege to tell my story of how Missoula Aging Services has been an integral part of my grandparent's health, aging process, and a primary resource for our family and Missoula.

I first knew of Missoula Aging Services from my experience in the health care field as a CNA. I had to have back surgery recently for a herniated disk and wasn't able to do CNA work anymore so I went to Missoula Aging Services looking for volunteer opportunities to fulfill my love to help the elderly. I soon met Mary Dalton the Director of the Respite Program. I began volunteering with a wonderful Native American family while I was also taking care of my grandparents. Mary Dalton was a key individual for me to meet because she helped me find additional care for my grandparents through the local agencies such as Case Management Connections. Mary at Missoula Aging Services was tremendously helpful with this process. She corresponded with the owners of the companies and assisted me in finding a caring and experienced caretaker. My grandparents also are benefiting directly from Missoula Aging Services because they qualify for a 10% cost share where Missoula Aging Services through grants pays for 4 hours of care per week; this helps with the high costs of agency care, and is extremely appreciated and needed by our family. Missoula Aging Services also has an amazing program called Meals on Wheels where they provide a healthy variety of meals for my grandmother. This is particularly helpful because it makes dinnertime easier for the caretaker of the evening. I will soon be leaving to attend MEDEX Northwest Physician Assistant school and feel comfortable that Missoula Aging Services is there as a resource for my family and confident they will help in any way they can.

I am very thankful and proud that Missoula has a program like Missoula Aging Services. Without them many families and elderly individuals in the community would suffer a great loss. I support Missoula Aging Services in any way I can, and hope to integrate their resources with my future practice as a Physician Assistant. Missoula Aging Services offers a wide range of information, community projects, volunteer opportunities and a welcoming staff and atmosphere. Thank you Missoula Aging Services for everything you do for my community, my family and myself!

Sincerely,

Taryn Michelle Nash

1-15-2009

State of Montana

Attn: Legislators

Helena, MT 59601

Diane Richards

2405 56th St.

Missoula, MT 59803

Legislators:

My name is Diane Richards. My husband and I live in Missoula and we are both life-long residents of Montana. We have been married for fifty two years and have taken great pride in always being employed, never needing any assistance. Always helping others as we were both in the health care field most of our working years. Ten years ago my husband who is now seventy seven began to show signs of Alzheimer's disease. He has since been so diagnosed. In the early stages I continued to work however his decline in 2007 made it impossible for me to maintain my everyday schedule. I was fortunately referred to Missoula Aging Services. They not only made it possible for me to work at a job I loved for an additional four months, they assisted me with all the many questions I had. During this period it is most difficult to move forward without help. I have taken advantage of their respite program. I get away for eight to ten hours a month. As you know caring for others in this position is a 24/7 job.

When I read in our newspaper that our State Government was considering cutting funding to our aging facilities, I could not believe it. I am asking each and every one of you to reconsider. I know these are very difficult times. Everyone needs assistance now more than ever, but it is our aging population that made not only Montana, but America what it is today. We are the people who set a very good example after World War Two, on how lives should be lived. We are your parents, your grand-parents and in many cases your great grand-parents. We were your teachers, your coaches and your leaders. We were the people who loved and nurtured, and educated you. We walked in your shoes. We took care of our aging people and never batted an eye. Because we cared, the past generations have not been as large a drain on our state or federal governments that it will be if you fail to fund these services. We did and continue to do, all these things with great pride!

YOU NEED TO TALK TO CAREGIVERS.

We continue to do this because we love and respect those with whom we are entrusted. The state of Vermont pays a nominal amount to caregivers. I crunched the figures and each caregiver is saving the State of Montana \$5,000.00 month/\$60,000.00 a year by caring for their loved ones at home. We are not draining Medicare or Medicaid. We are once again laying our lives on the line. Doing what we were taught. Strengthen our families, strengthen our communities and strengthen our government.

WORK TOGETHER!

I am respectfully asking you to research this. I am not speaking for myself, I am speaking for all the patients and their caregivers and all the aging population with no moral or financial assistance. They will become more ill and more depressed each day and will ultimately be a very large drain on our government. Please recognize the consequences of your actions, not only to the people of Montana but also to the great state of Montana.

Thank your for your time and your consideration of this pressing problem.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diane Richards". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Diane Richards

cc: Governor, Brian Schweitzer
cc: Senator, Max Baucus
cc: Senator, Jon Tester
cc: Congressman, Denny Rehberg

From: "jandmonchickadee@bresnan.net" <j&monchickadee@bresnan.net>
To: "Montana State Legislature"
Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2009 1:55 PM
Subject: Missoula Aging Services

This is our story of how much the services of Missoula Aging Services have benefitted us:

My husband, John, was diagnosed with Alziemer's disease in December, 2006. He has a superb neurologist whose care and prescriptions have helped slow down the progress of this disease, but he still needs someone with him most of the time and MSA has provided a volunteer to stay with for up to 4 hours a week. She comes on Thursday so I can run errands that need to be done. They really enjoy each others company.

Last July I fell and hit my head. I had to have emergency surgery to remove a bleeding blood clot that was pressing against my brain. I was in the hospital intensive care unit at St. Patricks Hospital for 24 days and Village Health Care for another 9 days. My memory was greatly affected and took some time to come back. My sons came from out of state and made arrangements with MSA to provide Meals-on-Wheels to provide one meal a day for John and they and the neighbors looked after him. His confusion has since become worse, but physically he's fine.

John is a very social person and to give me a little more respite, MSA also made arrangements to help with the cost and to help find someone who could take him to the Senior Center for lunch on Tuesday and to play some Bingo. She is great with John and they get along just fine, and enjoy the day..

MSA has also helped me to find a less expensive Pharmeceutical Insurance Company. My prescriptions are all generic, but John's are not because there are not yet generics for what he needs and they are very expensive.

For all of these different types of help, we are tremendously grateful! I just don't know what we would have done without their help!

This is just one family's story but I'm sure there are many other Seniors in Missoula who need and use their help! I urge you give Missoula Aging Services the necessary funds for them to continue their services.

Sincerely,



Marlene L. Sawyer

1/21/2009

Montana Congress.

It has come to my attention that the Montana Aging Services are having troubling times at present.

Some programs are suffering greatly, benefits to the Montana Elderly are limiting putting some benefits on hold.

I now ask the Montana Congress to institute a Bill for 10 million Dollars for the next biennial.

A Senior Companion

Dear Committee Member,

I am a Senior Companion at Missoula Aging Services, I have done respite care giving a much needed break from the caring of a very sick family member. I have a client from that Greatest Generation Ever, and is she ever. I have learned a lot from this very vital woman and she is my friend. We meet once a week at her house as is hard for her to go out at this time in her life. She shares her wisdom, books, life experiences, recipes, and most of all friendship. Some of my clients needed rides to the Doctors or shopping they all become friends that enrich my life.

I feel this is important part of their life and mine. The service I provide helps them live in their homes and the stipend helps me with the cost of medicine, food, and other needs. I wished you could come spend a day or week and meet and see the clients (friends) it would truly bless you.

Sincerely,
Caroline Y Squires

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Caroline Y Squires". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

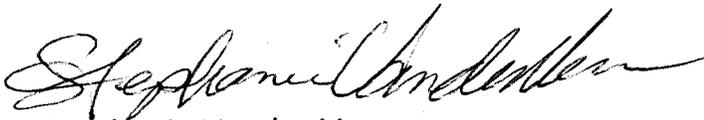
Jan, 22, 2009

To whom it may concern:

I am a senior citizen and the daughter of a senior citizen. I currently enjoy being self employed. I do however; have a mother who needs the services of, Aging Services". Without the aid, education, and opportunities to work in the community, my mother would not know what possibilities there are for her in the community. She would not have structure in her days, and she would not know how to channel her energies into helping individuals in our community. Last but not least, she would be living on a far inferior level of economics.

I am asking that you consider us in every way possible, that you may continue to fund this agency to the fullest degree.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Vander Veen

2995 N Reserve

Missoula, Montana 59808

406-549-5771

Jan 21, 2009

Dear Sir or Madam,

My name is Lula Winckell.
I am writing you to show my
support for Missoula Aging Service.
I am a senior volunteer
at Missoula Aging Service and
the help they give to keep
seniors in their own homes
and keep the cost of care
down for them and their
families.

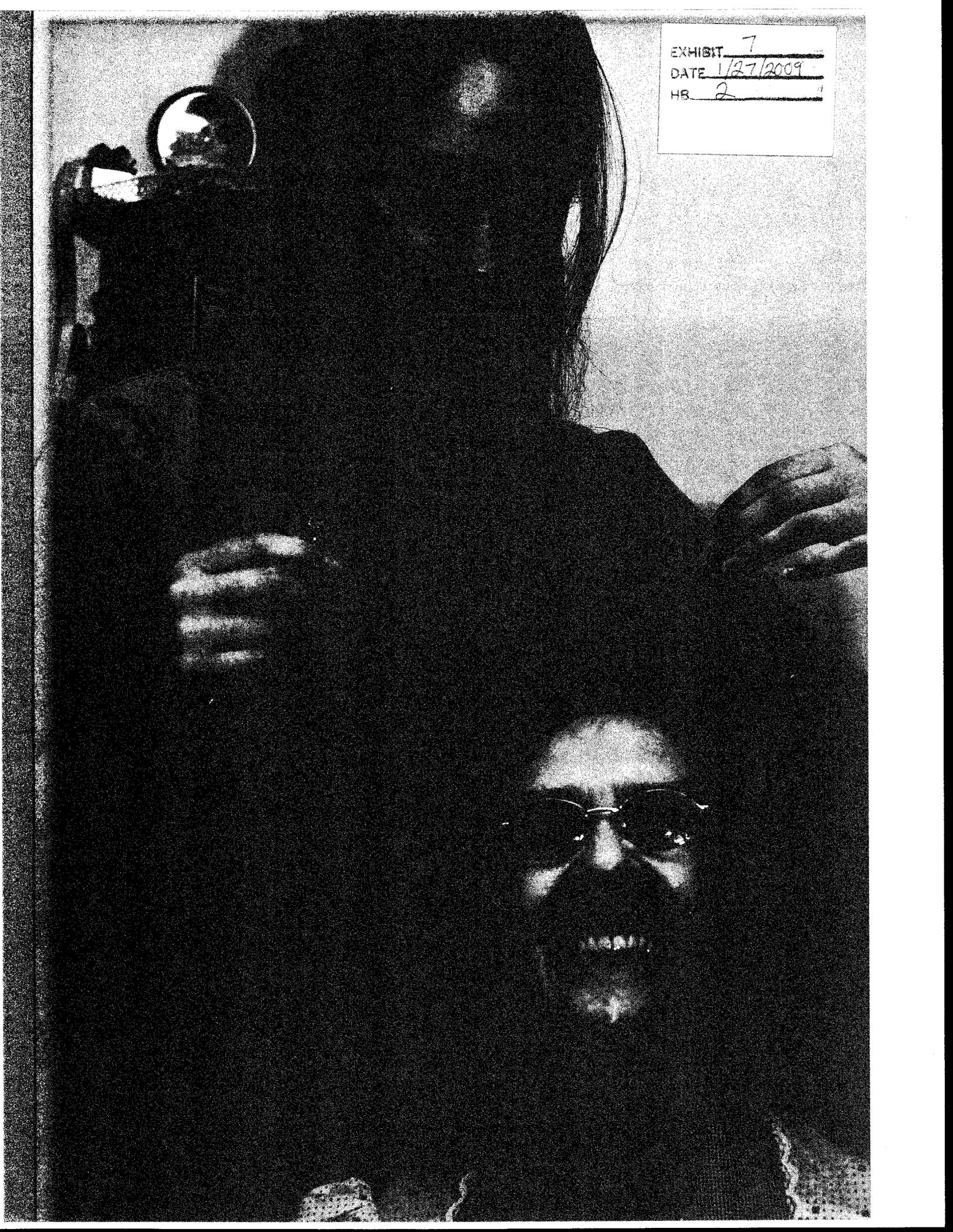
It helps me by giving
me a stipend which helps
me in my bills and other
items.

Respectfully,
Lula Winckell
20755 Ridgewood Dr.
Huson, Mt. 59846
9543

7
EX-111
DATE 1/27/09
2



EXHIBIT 7
DATE 1/27/2009
HB 2



Dear Montana State Legislators:

I'd like to tell you about Senior Helping Hands. Everyone down there is so nice. Their nurse has been working with me for over a year.

Any time I need anything I just call Senior Helping Hands. They are always willing to do extra things. I couldn't sing their praises high enough. They are always ready to help us.

When I was going to have to go into the hospital, they were going to help me find someone to stay with my husband, Carl. They just can't be beat! They just fantastic. I just can't say enough good about them.

I have been receiving services for about a year and a half. We have someone who does our housekeeping, grocery shopping, someone helps my husband, Carl, with his bath, and the nurse checks our vitals and helps with medication sorting and management. They help us in so many ways.

I can't cook and so we also get help from another program - meals on wheels. But the most help I've ever gotten is from Helping Hands.

Nowadays there aren't people who care enough to do what they do. When I found their program I thought I'd gone to heaven. Every worker they've sent is so wonderful.

If Senior Helping Hands couldn't come any hands we'd probably just die! If it wasn't for Helping Hands we'd just shrink away! We don't have anybody else, there is no family for us here. That's why we try to give every little bit we can to them - but we just don't have much.

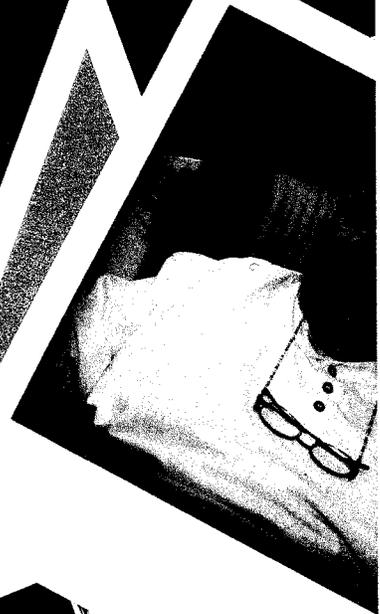
We've been with them at Senior Helping Hands so long and we have come to depend on them. I don't know what we'd do if they couldn't help us any more. There would be no life for us actually.

I hope that you will read this and help Senior Helping Hands in every way you can. They deserve the very best!

Please change your help!
Thank you for your help!
the budget!
Please change your minds and fix
the budget!

Sincerely,

EXHIBIT 7
DATE 1/27/2009
PAGE 2



7
COURT
DATE 12/20
2



EXHIBIT 7
DATE 1/27/2009
HB 2



Linda Rohwein
9525 Glacier Lily Drive
Missoula, Montana 590808
406-549-1764

January 26, 2009

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to advocate that the monies set aside to provide medical insurance coverage to employees who work with the disabled be expanded to include all care providers.

Last year we were told that the state would be putting money into healthcare insurance for care givers. This was exiting to hear since the costs of medical insurance is skyrocketing and very few caregivers are insured.

Provider agencies asked employees to fill out medical forms to present to insurance companies who would potentially provide a group policy plan. I filled out one of those forms believing I would be part of the group who would be insured. Then I was told that the insurance was only for employees who provided "direct care". To say that because I have a different job title I don't qualify as a direct care provider is exclusionary and prejudicial. To be systematically specific in definition of direct care excludes many hard workers who provide services to people with disabilities... workers who also cannot get nor afford health insurance.

I have worked 30 years doing all types of care for people with disabilities. The fact that I am hired as a "Habilitation Trainer" does not mean I do not do "direct care". Habilitation trainers work as part of a team to make sure people with disabilities get their needs met so they can live as independently as possible. As a team, we are all spokes in the wheel the keeps individuals with disabilities out of nursing homes and hospitals. If not for all of these spokes, individuals would fall through the cracks and end up in expensive nursing homes.

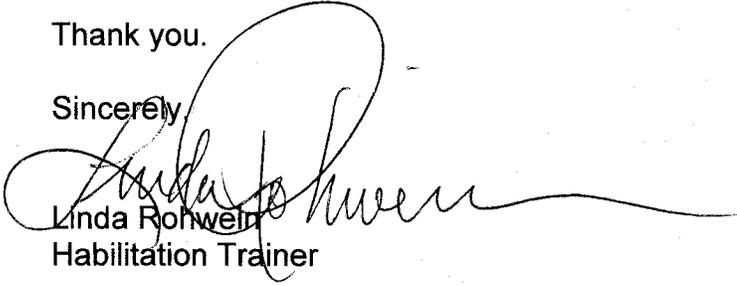
Every day I do whatever is necessary for my clients, whether written in my job description or not. This includes advocacy, putting clients on the toilet, cleaning up after someone has had an accident, bathing, if necessary, and no other caregiver is around, dressing and transporting to medical appointment. I do exercise programs, fill out recertification applications, and keep their vehicles maintained and licensed. These are all necessary things that would not get done if only using "direct care" providers.

Our country is in a health care crisis with many people uninsured or underinsured. Workers who provided services to people with disabilities work through an employment agency and do not receive the usual benefits other employees get such as sick pay, vacation pay, holiday pay and health care insurance. Employees work with the disabled are dedicated and hard workers and deserve the opportunity to receive insurance coverage. Our clients receive Medicaid and Medicare and yet those of us who work with them have no insurance coverage.

I ask you to please consider expanding this insurance benefit to other employees who work directly with people with disabilities.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Linda Rohwein", written in black ink. The signature is fluid and extends to the right.

Linda Rohwein
Habilitation Trainer