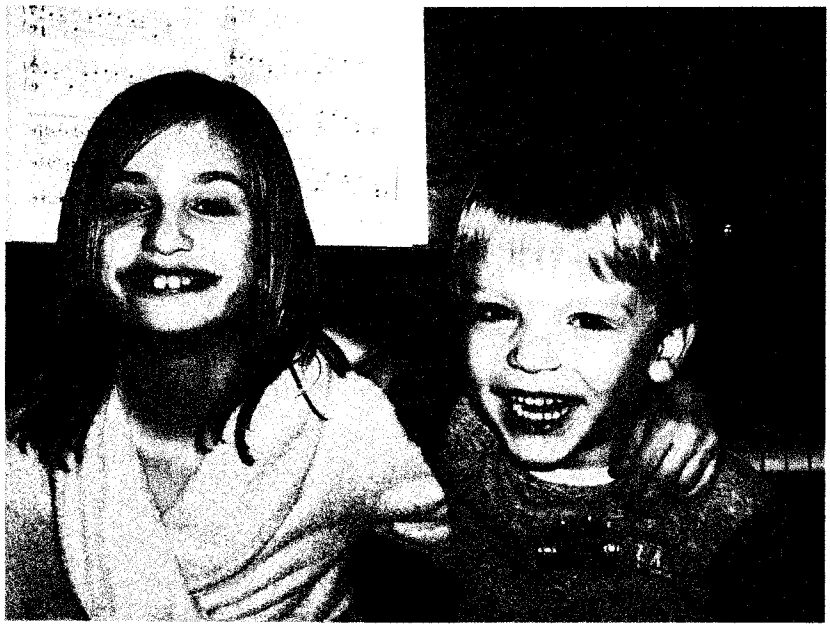
EXHIBIT 25
DATE 3/26/09
SB 406

Jonene Bernhardt's Testimony on SB 406
House Judiciary Committee
March 13, 2009

Good morning! My name is Jonene Bernhardt from Kalispell. I am here to add my support to SB 406. I have given birth to two very premature babies, one at 27 weeks and another at 31 weeks. They are both beautiful gifts from God (see picture below). My daughter, Alicia, was born at 2.1 pounds when I was only 6 months' pregnant! Her foot was as wide as my finger. She was too small for even preemie diapers. Look at her now. She's a smart, healthy, vibrant 3rd grader in our public school. I know that Alicia was a person even before she was full-term. She didn't have to wait 9 months to have everything she needed—Alicia is living proof that she was already a person after only 6 months development! And it's a good thing 'cause she wouldn't wait another 3 months to make her debut; she had stuff to do. And she hasn't slowed down since then…what a sweetie!

The only thing babies this small don't have yet is a voice to defend themselves. We as compassionate people can be their voice. All citizens of Montana, whether born yet or not, have rights under our state constitution. If unborn babies are not considered people and worth protecting, some women and girls may abort them at this time in the pregnancy, denying these little people their own rights. I know firsthand that babies that young can survive and thrive if allowed to be born! Please do everything you can to give unborn babies like Alicia a chance to live and pursue their own inalienable rights.

Please support SB 406 and let this issue go before the voters so we have time to debate and educate our fellow Montanans. Those little unborn lives are worth it!



Alicia and Caleb Bernhardt from Kalispell, Montana
My kids who were beautiful "people" born months before their due dates!