

BUSINESS & LABOR

EXHIBIT NO. 9
DATE 2-9-09
BILL NO. SB287

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Pat Bollinger, MS RD
BOME Testimony re SB 287
February 9, 2009

Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Pat Bollinger. I am a nutritionist from Helena and also a member of the Montana Board of Medical Examiners. Today I represent the Board, ~~along with Dr. Dean Center.~~

The Board of Medical Examiners had the opportunity to discuss this bill with Ms Deborah Kimmet of the Montana Health Freedom Coalition during our January 23 board meeting. The Board voted unanimously to oppose this bill.

We believe that the licensure of health care providers assists in protecting the safety and welfare of Montana citizens. Licensing laws and rules set minimum qualifications for education and training, and establish parameters for a health care profession's scope of practice to protect consumers. Statutory recognition of UNLICENSED individuals, who meet no professional practice requirements, would LOWER these standards, opening the door for INCREASED HARM to consumers.

I appreciate this opportunity to express the Board's opposition and strongly suggest a do not pass. I am available for any questions you may have.

Thank you.