SENATE FINANCE & CLAIMS

Exhibit No. 23

Date 3-9-09

Bill No. SB 234

Montana Nurses Association

20 Old Montana State Highway ● Clancy, MT 59634
(406) 442-6710 Voice ● (406) 442-1841 Fax

March 9, 2009

SB234 - Insurance coverage for autism – Support

Chairman and Fellow Committee members,

Montana Nurses Association (MNA) is the voice of nurses in Montana representing the interests of Registered Nurses and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses.

MNA supports improving access to care for children who suffer from an autism spectrum disorder. These vulnerable children benefit from early treatment to maximize their potential for development. Without appropriate health care interventions they will be less likely to function productively. Autism is a treatable health disorder; treatments should be covered by health insurance.

MNA requests a friendly amendment to include advanced practice nurses as covered providers.

Robert Allen
Executive Director
Montana Nurses Association'
(406) 442-6710