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February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009

TO: Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee

FROM: Del Lonnquist, volunteer advocate AARP Montana

RE: SB 405- Revise grandparent-grandchild contact law.

SENATE JUDICIARY

EXHIBIT NO. 5

DATE 2/16/09

BILL NO. SB 405

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Del Lonnquist and I'm a volunteer advocate for AARP Montana—a non-profit, non-partisan organization of 165,000 members in this state.

Every year we see more Centenarians at the Governors Conference On Aging, a continuing reminder that we are an aging population. It is important that our Montana law reflects how our population changes. AARP Montana is an advocate for the over 6,000 grandparents raising grandchildren in this state and there are many great-grandparents who are also a valuable resource to Montana families.

Great-grandparents should be recognized in the law and permitted to be a resource whenever they are able. They're twice as wise as regular grandparents, right?

Thank you, and we urge your support for SB 405.