

Exhibit No. 3Date 3-4-09**Montana Nurses Association**

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March 4, 2009

HB 151 Revise Breast Reconstruction mandate to comply with Federal law - Support

Senator Brown and Members of the Committee;

The Montana Nurses Association, representing Montana's professional nurses, offers its support for HB 151 as amended and sponsored by Representative Arlene Becker, RN.

In general, we believe that members of the public deserve equal access to health care interventions, regardless of the type of illness or injury. The Model Language of the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998 provides standard assessment and intervention for women diagnosed with breast cancer and promotes uniform access for men and women who are treated for both breast cancer and the side effects of breast cancer treatments.

In 2008, about 620 new cases of invasive breast cancer were diagnosed in Montana women and 130 women died from this disease. Breast cancer is the most frequently diagnosed cancer among women, and is second only to lung cancer in deaths among women.

Senator Brown and Members of the Committee, the incidence of breast cancer and its accompanying side effects and the need for providing uniform access for victims of this disease is evident. The Montana Nurses Association strongly encourages your support of HB 151.

On behalf of those we serve,

Robert Allen
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