EXHIBIT 30
DATE 3/3/11
HB 2

Montana House of Representatives
Witness Statement

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

PLEASE PRINT

HB 2

NAME: Dixie Stark

BUDGET: Section E-OPI

ADDRESS: 4005 W. Fork Rd #11
Darby MT 59829

DATE: 3/3/2011

WHOM DO YOU REPRESENT? Adult Basic Education ABE/GED

SUPPORT: _____ OPPOSE: X AMEND: _____

COMMENTS:

I strongly oppose the elimination of funds for Adult Basic Education programs! ($525,000)

The loss of state funds for ABE could cause the loss of Federal Funds because of Maintenance of Effort requirements. (Lose $1.1 million)

Federal Funds for ABE come through the Workforce Investment Act, Title II, because our programs are essential to help people gain or retain employment. Many of our students have been in the workforce for many years and they have been injured or simply had a job that no longer exists and require retraining.

It costs $813/day to incarcerate a person in the Ravalli County Youth Detention Center. We serve

-over-

about 50 people a year who are required to attain a GED as a condition of their probation.

We have helped career truck drivers who found that insurance costs are lower (by up to 30%) when all the drivers have a GED (high school equivalency diploma) as a minimum.

This legislature has not supported the bill to make the mandatory age for dropping out of school 18 instead of 16. Why would you eliminate the programs that allow drop-outs to complete the GED and enter the workforce?

Please consider the negative impacts to our communities and restore funding for Adult Basic Education.

Montana House of Representatives
Witness Statement

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

PLEASE PRINT

NAME: Erin Niedge BUDGET: Section E-OPI

ADDRESS: 719 S. Merriam DATE: 3/3/2011
Miles City

WHOM DO YOU REPRESENT? Miles City Adult Basic Education / GED program

SUPPORT: _____ OPPOSE: X AMEND: _____
oppose cuts to ABE

COMMENTS:

Please reinstate the funding for Adult Basic Education programs in the state of Montana. My colleagues and I teach adults in the Center for Academic Success at Miles Community College. Hundreds of students have walked through our door, committed their time + energy to improving their academic skills, and earned better lives for themselves and their children. We're reading a lot lately about the "right of the individual" and "the responsibility of the individual." I whole-heartedly agree that people should "pull themselves up by their own bootstraps." That said, I must tell you that our students arrive at the Center with boots, but no straps. If you visited our program, you would see us tutoring students to obtain their GED, + working with other adults to strengthen their math, reading, + English skills so that they can succeed in college, vocational programs, or the workplace. You would see us teaching English to foreign students who are determined to learn the language + gain American citizenship. You would see all this, and you would think you know what we're doing. But what we're really doing is building bootstraps.

Our students go on to college, employment, & better lives. They become taxpayers, voters, & citizens with a considerable stake in Montana's economic future. Almost a thousand Montanans obtained GED diplomas last year. over 550 transitioned to college & 393 got jobs, saving the state potentially $106,000 weekly in unemployment payments — because they participated in adult basic education.

We graduated from high school. Anyone can do it. Right? Wrong. I have been humbled by our students' stories. We now know that we were extremely lucky to have family, academic, & community support during our own school years — and to have even more support at the college level — bootstraps galore. Our adult education students have not been so fortunate.

Please restore the funding for adult basic education. Our students need your support. Montana cannot afford the loss of their futures.

Montana House of Representatives
Witness Statement

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

PLEASE PRINT

NAME: Ken Bixler BUDGET: HB-2 Section E-OPI

ADDRESS: 502 4th Ave E., Polson, MT. 59860 DATE: 3-3-11

WHOM DO YOU REPRESENT? SKC Adult Basic & Literacy Education

SUPPORT:_____ OPPOSE:_____ AMEND:_____

COMMENTS:

I would like to speak for the disabled Americans and single parents that come to a point in life when there seems to be no hope at all. After being disabled for a year it was either crawl into a corner or stand up and fight. When I walked into the adult education room at SKC they gave me new hope in my life. If we take these funds away from this program we are taking away hope from all disabled and single parents. please lets educate not throwing them to the wolfs. Lets give life not take it away. Lets be productive citizens. Give us the chance to learn new solutions, better ideas, and be positive role models for our children, and our childrens children.

Thank you

Ken Bixler

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Montana House of Representatives
Witness Statement

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

PLEASE PRINT

NAME: Renee Bentham BUDGET: Section E - OPI

ADDRESS: 644 West Artemas, Mt 59803 DATE: 3/3/11

WHOM DO YOU REPRESENT? Adult Basic Education

SUPPORT: _____ OPPOSE: oppose the cut AMEND: _____

COMMENTS:

Please reinstate the $525,000 in state funds needed to pull down the nearly 1.1 million in federal funds. It will pay the state back many times over. Let me tell you how.
1. We prepare unemployed individuals for work or retraining. Last year 393 students gain employment saving the state of Montana potentially $106,503 per week. In addition 504 individuals worked with us to prepare for postsecondary education and training. Many of these individuals had been successful tax paying citizens like those who were laid off from Smurfit Stone Container and Plum Creek.
2. We pay the state back by assisting 955 students who did not finish high school prepare for and attain the GED. Those individuals increase their earning potential by $6,241 per year. 3. We helped 4816 individuals in corrections. 95% of incarcerated individuals return to our communities. It is particularly challenging for these individuals to find work, but almost impossible if they don't have a high school diploma or GED. When you figure

the average cost per student we serve is $91.00 to the state of Montana. ~~to~~ That is less than it costs to incarcerate an individual for one day.

In the words of one of my students, "Please don't cut funds for Montana's brighter future." Please reinstate the $525,000 in funding for Adult Basic Education.