

February 18, 2011

To: House Business and Labor Committee
From: Carol Price, RDH, BA
RE: HB 572

Dear Chairman Arntzen and Members of the Committee:

HB 572 is a great idea!

I am currently serving my 2nd term on the Montana Board of Dentistry, 9 of 10 years. The current structure of the Board of Dentistry is unfair, unequitable and undemocratic. The Board is designed to represent three professions: dental hygiene, denturistry, and dentistry. However, it is well documented that one profession, dentistry, dominates the others. I have been treated disrespectfully with very little concern for my professional opinions, and have been given little to no time at Board meetings to discuss items of importance to my profession.

I believe the composition of the proposed Board works well because professionals from each profession are called upon for their expert opinions and the public members are allowed to make unbiased decisions based on what they learn. The public members will have a voting majority, which is congruent with the regulatory purpose of the Board, to protect the public.

Each of the three professions would be represented equally (2 dentists, 2 dental hygienists, and 2 denturists). These professionals know their OWN profession best and are most capable of developing rules, regulation, peer review and decisions about complaints. Also, with one less Board member then currently, the expense to taxpayers will be reduced.

I sincerely hope you will pass HB572. It is a wonderful solution to a current system that is broken. It provides fairness and equality to all of the dental professions represented. You can most definitely contact me if you have any questions.

Most Sincerely,



Carol Price, RDH

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