



**Easter Seals Goodwill Northern Rocky Mountain, Inc.**

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March 15, 2011

Rep. Elsie Arntzen, Chair  
House Business and Labor Committee  
State Capitol Room 172  
1301 E. Sixth Avenue  
Helena, MT 59620

EXHIBIT 4  
DATE 3/15/11  
SB 351

Re: SB 351

Dear Representative Arntzen:

I am Charlie Briggs, Assistant Vice-President with Easter Seals-Goodwill Northern Rocky Mountain, whose headquarters are in Great Falls. On behalf of my company I stand in support of SB 351. We are concerned about the proposal for a comprehensive five-county Medicaid managed care pilot project, which includes Cascade County, and its possible impact on the access and quality of services to our state's most vulnerable citizens.

In Cascade County, our company is the seventh largest employer, with more than 250 employees. Also in the proposed pilot area, we have outlying services to eligible citizens in Choteau and Teton Counties. Last fiscal year we provided services to 1,500 people that could be significantly impacted by the state's proposed privatization of Medicaid.

We serve a wide variety of people, various age groups and service needs. In all, we administer through contracts with the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services several Medicaid Home and Community Base (HCBS) waivers in three divisions: the Addictive and Mental Disorders Division, the Disability Services Division, and the Senior and Long-Term Care Division.

This includes community-based services to adults with developmental disabilities (*nearly 200* individuals in Cascade County alone), as well as supported living and supported employment services funded partially by the Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Home & Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver. We provide services to older adults, persons with developmental and/or physical disabilities funded partially by Medicaid through Medicaid Waiver Services and Medallion Medical Care entity – both skilled nursing and professional home health services – and personal, in-home care, and adult day services.

Further, we provide case management for older adults and people of all ages with physical disabilities through the Medicaid Waiver Home and Community Based Services. We are a case management pilot site serving those with severe and disabling mental illness (SDMI), and we also ensure hospice services are provided through Medicaid waiver slots.

Given the number of consumers and employees potentially impacted in Cascade County, our organization has a large stake in any managed care initiative and is concerned how quickly this managed care proposal has advanced.

However, while the current pilot proposal has served as a catalyst, the necessity for legislative action such as SB 351 has been with us for many years. We ask that you now act and provide independent oversight of managed care and its impact on our most vulnerable citizens. I urge a "do pass" today.

Finally, Easter Seals-Goodwill welcomes the opportunity to participate in any planning advisory body regarding implementation of a regional pilot. If the department awards a sole source contract to oversee Medicaid Managed Care, Easter Seals-Goodwill has more than 25 years experience as a Medicaid community service provider and is well-positioned to be a knowledgeable partner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Briggs". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C" and a stylized "Briggs".

CHARLIE BRIGGS  
Assistant Vice-President