

EXHIBIT 7
DATE 2/16/2011
HB

Department of Academic Success
Salish Kootenai College



Ph. (406) 275-4986
Fax. (406) 275-4813

Fax Transmittal Form

Date Sent: 02/15/2011
To: Marissa Stockton, Joint Appropriations Subcommittee Secretary
Phone #: _____ Fax #: 444-4825
FROM: Salish Kootenai College ABE Program students No. of Pages w/cover 9

Urgent Please Comment For Review Reply Request

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URGENT:

MESSAGES: Only three students were able to travel to Helena on Monday with such short notice. Please find eight (8) letters from students unable to travel; however, they are writing to show support of Montana ABE programs and OPPOSING Decision Plan #95104.
Thank you for your time!
Debra Reum, SKC ABLE Program, Distance Learning Coordinator

Steven Lee Hernandez

P.O. Box 421
St. Ignatius MT
59865

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

RE: ABLE Funding

I strongly believe that cutting this program could be a great mistake. I mean to take from anybody's education is to basically take a person's life away. I myself have a daughter and she means the world to me, but I can honestly say that if I didn't have the education I do now, that I would not be able to support her. It is because of my education that I can read, write, learn, and support my family in our time of need. This tribe is struggling enough as it is with our education and it's great to see people wanting to learn-young and old alike. Can I just ask you to put yourselves in a person's shoes whom is struggling to find a job because of the lack of education they have.

May I ask another question? I would like you to ask yourselves if you can really take from those who need. I can see where you're coming from trying to help the youth, but let's all take a second to think about how much of the youth that you would like to help will actually succeed. That's where this program comes into play. The youth that don't succeed need a place where they can be helped to get their GED, go to college, or to get that job, they failed to get because someone else was more qualified.

Also, let's just take another second to think about the parents who want a GED and are getting it to get a better job for their children. You're taking the money from this program to give to the youth, How is a parent supposed to provide for that youth or to reward that youth for good grades or good behavior in school if they cannot get a good paying job from, lack of Education. So I honestly feel in the end, that it is most important that our elders or our children whom are seeking their GED are able to attain it when they need it. Who are we to take from people in their time of need. Thank you for listening and taking time out of your day to read this. I hope that what I have written can at least touch one of your hearts.

Sincerely

A concerned parent and a hardworking father
Steven Lee Hernandez

Steven Lee Hernandez

Lisa Adams
29521 Rock Point RD.
Polson MT.59860

02-15-2011

Please don't cut this program

Closing down SKC Adult basic literacy Education would be tragedy for many here on the reservation.

I, Lisa Adams have a learning disability. I've been two years behind my class at Polson High. Even when I left in the middle of my sophomore year, I was still below seventh and eighth grade level. I am forty-five now and found while I've been here that there are others that didn't now how to read or write their names; but with the help here they have learned and excelled in a short period of time.

While here at S K C - Adult Basic and Literacy Education has showing me different was of learning that has work for me. I am very close to getting my G E D and further my education at S K C.

So please don't shut them down.

Sensually, Lisa Adams.



Karol Bird
7 - 7th Ave East
Polson, MT 59860

RE: Adult Basic Literacy Education

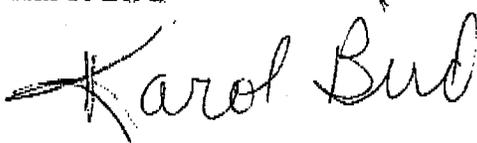
Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

My name is Karol Bird and I attend the ABLE program at Salish Kootenai College. I am 64 years old. I sometimes work part time on weekends. Things have slowed up and I haven't worked since August. I have been having a hard time paying my basic bills (light, water, gas, and medications). My SSI is only \$550 a month. I'm in GED class since my marriage of 36 years ended in divorce. After I get my GED, I plan on taking some college classes.

If you stop the GED classes, it would be difficult to live. I need an education, it is really important to me at this time in my life. For once, I am finally feeling good about me.

Sincerely,

Karol Bird

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karol Bird". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name "Karol Bird".

**Christina J. Pittenger
PO Box 1573
Polson, MT. 59860**

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Christina Pittenger and I am from Polson Montana. I attend the ABLE program at age 35 and I do not know what I would do with out this program. I am studying to receive my GED so that I can go on to enroll in college at SKC to eventually become a counselor and advocate for women and children in domestic violence. The SKC ABLE program is giving me the tools I need to study for my GED, especially in the area of math. I dropped out of school at 16, got married and had a child and have been raising babies ever since, mostly in controlling abusive homes which enabled me to put my education, dreams, aspirations etc. on the back burner. Now that I have come out of the abusive and dysfunctional home, I have been in for way too long there is hope for me since the ABLE program exists. When I came here head down and ashamed of my self for not even graduating high school or receiving my GED still at age 35, I got nothing but the very best treatment. I was greeted with dignity and respect and have never been made to feel dumb, less than, or any of the many other names others have used to label me in the past and some that I have used to label myself. This program has not only given me a place and tools to study, but it has given me the self esteem to get up every morning and say to my self that I can do this, (and at my own pace too). I don't know what I would do if this program didn't exist, I would probably still be putting off my education for someone or something else. Please reconsider cutting all Adult Education funds; this would be a huge loss to our state's educational system.

**Sincerely,
Christina J. Pittenger**

Christina J. Pittenger

Robert McLeod
521 Adams St. SW Apt 4
Ronan, MT 59864

RE: ABLE Funding

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board:

My name is Robert McLeod, and I attend the ABLE program at Salish Kootenai College. You want people to have a good education, now what are you doing? You are taking away our opportunity to get a good education so that we can get a good job. When I first came here, I did not know very much. I could not get on a computer, and I did not know much Math. Now I can get in and get on the computer and do my work without any problem. So I hope that you will let us continue our education. I know that you have a heart and I pray that you do not close us down because I would like to finish my education at SKC. This is the best thing that has ever happened to me.

Sincerely,
Robert McLeod

Robert McLeod

Patricia McCrea
47153 Pache Lane
Ronan, MT 59864

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

RE: ABLE Funding

I feel that the funding should come through. Without a GED it is hard to get a job. This will help other people - younger and older ones as well. Without the Adult Education Programs, there would be no one to turn to for help. This program has helped out a lot of people at doing better in their lives.

Sincerely,

Patricia McCrea

Patricia McCrea

Paul Sweatt
40131 Carbine Rd.
Ronan, MT 59864

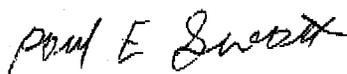
Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

My name is Paul Sweatt and I attend the Department of Academic Success at Salish Kootenai College. Before attending this program, I worked for many year's at Plum Creek Mill. When I was originally hired I was not required to have a high school diploma. The mill has since closed down and now it is hard to find a job without a GED.

Since coming to the program, I've done a lot better on Reading and Math. My vocabulary has also improved greatly. My whole goal in attending Adult Basic Literacy Education classes is to be able to write a check or small letter to my wife when I take off. I have learned how to relate to other people where I used to be a loner. This program will continue to help other adults long after I'm gone.

Please do not cut this funding. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Paul Sweatt

Feb. 15 2011

Arnold Little Boy
POB 304
Ronan, MT 59864

RE: ABLE Program

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to you in regards to the ABLE program, and your plans to cut its funding. I am a current student in this program, and I believe that its good and nessary for not only my success, but alot of other citizens too. I am therefore requesting that you reconsider this action.

I'm a current student in the ABLE program, and I believe that this program is a key factor in my future and other's being a success. My current employment requires me to get a GED to stayed employed. This would also help in my current and future advancement at my job.

I'm not a high school graduate, and I've always regrcted it. Also, the ABLE program not only gives that but helps pave the way to my future plans to attend college. So in short, ABLE will enable me to succeed in all aspects in my life. I believe that a lot of others feel the same as I. This program has helped me feel alot more confident about myself and my future., so please don't cut the funding for this much needed, and successful program.

Sincerely,

Arnold Little Boy
Student and member of the SALISH tribe.

Arnold Little Boy