



EXHIBIT 6  
 DATE 1/19/2011  
 HB \_\_\_\_\_

Mister Chair and Members of the subcommittee, my name is Emily McVey, I am the Director of Montana Youth Homes in Helena, MT. Montana Youth Homes is a member of the Montana Children's Initiative.

After being a single teenager mother I was drawn to the work being done at the Florence Crittenton Home. Ten years ago I was hired there as a relief staff. I enjoyed the work so much I made the decision to go back to college and get a degree so that I could move into a management position. Four years ago I moved into the position as the Director of Montana Youth Homes. My goal became saving a floundering group home program that was ready to shut its doors.

Over the past four years the MYH team has created one of the most outstanding emergency shelter and non-therapeutic group homes in the state. We have built a new home, expanded our programs and revamped our curriculum so that our kids are working every day to learn skills to help them become contributing adults. We have gone from serving 40-50 youth per year to providing a home for 120 boys and girls in 2010. In 2010 we provided 3332 safe nights of stay and 7902 meals to youth. We provided emergency shelter to 44 youth and 22 of the youth we served returned to our program between one and four times last year alone.

Even though Montana Youth Homes is more successful than ever the fees paid by the state still don't even come close to providing enough to cover all of our basic bills. The annual revenue for the Montana Youth Homes program is just over \$800,000 per year. Twelve percent of that or approximately \$100,000 of that is raised through United Way, grants and other fundraising. Even at that Montana Youth Homes runs with about a \$125,000 deficit each year. The fees paid to non-therapeutic group homes is already too low for us to pay for all of the necessities for our clients. We are not unique in this situation, almost all group homes experience this same level of deficit, made up by large fundraising efforts. Please remember this when considering the DPHHS budget.

Thank you Mr. Chair and members of the subcommittee.

**JAN SHAW YOUTH HOME — MARGARET STUART YOUTH HOME**

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