EXHIBIT 36
DATE 1/25/2011
HB

1437 South 1st St. West
Apartment A
Missoula, MT 59801
January 25, 2011

Chairman,
Members of the Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to speak today.

The proposed budget cuts distress me greatly! The potential loss of HCBS Waiver slots is extremely disturbing. I'm on a waiver, and I value dearly the availability of innovative services not accessible through regular Medicaid. Without it, I could not live independently with much ~~success~~ success. (Personal Assistance Services)

A reduction in PAS services would also be very detrimental. PCA's and CNA's are vital to the function and independence of people with disabilities, all types of disabilities. They might be the only human contact that people with disabilities get all day or even all week. If meal prep hours are cut even more, people will not get their nutritional needs met. I will not. On 4 hours a week, that's 30-35 minutes a day to make a nutritious meal, serve it, and clean up. I know, as a vegetarian, my food consists of whole, real foods, that take longer to prepare.

It simply won't work.

The potential cuts to the Big Sky RX Program are particularly bothersome. 11,000 people are affected by this, and could have to choose between food and medication. Would you want to have to make that choice?

The mental health system would also be greatly affected. House Bill 130 would impact jail diversion and crisis intervention, both vital programs. Case management for MHSP (Mental Health Services Plan) might also be another cut.

We all know that it is much less expensive for people with disabilities to live independently with support in the community than in institutions. Not only that, but we are <u>much</u> happier, do <u>much</u> better, and live <u>much</u> longer.

As a person ~~a person~~ who has been forced into institutions in the past, I can <u>certainly</u> attest to that.

By making these cuts, you will definitely be forcing people into nursing homes and other higher levels of care / more expensive levels of care. How can this be a cost-saving measure?

And please don't forget the 70%/30% matching funds from the federal government. It might not be the best move just to let those funds go.

I encourage you to give enormous forethought before you make your

decision on this vote for the budget. It will impact real breathing, living, walking (or rolling), human beings, not just numbers or statistics, but people. Really think before you act.

Thank you for your time today.

Sincerely,
Brooke J. Jaquith