EXHIBIT 9
DATE 2/18/2011
HB 516

Beverly LaHaye
Chairman

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Patti Kanduch, and I am the State Director for concerned Women for America (CWA) of Montana. CWA is the largest public policy women's organization in the United States with more than 500,000 members. We are here today to strongly support H.B. 516.

As more and more states pass "sexual orientation" legislation, they are seeing an abridgement of civil liberties. In Philadelphia a few years ago a small group of Christians were peacefully demonstrating at a homosexual parade. The group was comprised of eleven people, one was a grandmother. They were arrested and spent 21 hours in jail. In 2008 an African-American woman, Crystal Dixon, was removed from her position as Associate Vice President of Human Resources at the University of Toledo simply because she wrote an op-ed in a newspaper saying that homosexual behavior should not be compared to being black. In 2008 a college professor in California, June Sheldon, was fired for leading a brief discussion on homosexuality. Albert Buonanno and others were fired from their corporate and government jobs for not wanting to "celebrate" at their work place "sexual orientation" and "gender Identity" diversity. The New Mexico Human Rights Commission ordered a female photographer to pay over $6000.00 to a lesbian couple for declining to photograph their commitment ceremony on the grounds that it violated her Christian beliefs. The Boy Scouts in Boston were no longer allowed free use of city facilities because of their policies. In California a doctor was sued for declining to artificially inseminate a woman in a lesbian relationship. In Arlington, Virginia, the Human Rights Commission went after a Christian printer who would not duplicate two pro-homosexual films for lesbian activist Lillian Vincenz. A California software maker was forced to pay a settlement and legal fees totaling over $1 million because the company did not promote a man who had come to work dressed as a woman. It did not matter that the company did not even know the "woman" was a man. I could go on and on. There are so many cases of Americans losing their right of free speech, freedom of religion, and freedom of expressive association because of "sexual orientation" policies.

On The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) web site an article, "Should Homosexuals have "Equal Protection" rights based on their "Sexual Orientation"? Guest writer Matthew D. Staver, JD, Founder and Chairman of Liberty Counsel said, "Homosexual behavior should not be accorded special protection." He said, "The Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964 laid the foundation for future civil rights laws." The underlying characteristic of the protected classes include 1. A history of longstanding, widespread discrimination, 2. Economic disadvantage, and 3.

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Immutable characteristics. Sexual orientation defiantly does not meet any of the three objective criteria."

In the same ACLU article Tony Marco said, "Gays as a class while representing perhaps 2 percent of America's population, represent a political force superior to 99.9 percent of all American political action committees. Enough money makes any group a 'majority'-and certainly insulates any group from becoming 'second-class citizens.' Therefore, in no way can a case be made that gays as an entire class should be afforded protections equal to those enjoyed by traditionally protected or suspect classes. Thus, denying gay militants that class status and those protections is eminently rational, given the criteria established to rule inclusion in those classes."

The truth is homosexuals have never been denied the right to vote, forced to sit in the back of the bus or denied access to public drinking fountains, as black Americans were. We do not have "homosexual housing projects" or "gay ghettos." And according to the Wall Street Journal the homosexuals enjoy almost double the disposable income of heterosexuals and almost four times that of black Americans.

Do not believe anyone who claims that adding "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" to the anti-discrimination ordinance will not lead down the road to an abridgement of civil liberties for those who disapprove of homosexual and transgender behavior. All evidence suggests otherwise. The acceptance of "sexual orientation" as a civil right is having profound effect on businesses and on American society as a whole. Homosexual editor Chris Crain openly boasts that the drive for "gay" domestic partner benefits has fueled a dramatic erosion in respect for marriage. As the drive for acceptance of homosexuality increases, societal support for marriage and family decreases with predictable negative consequences. One of them is a loss of freedom for people who believe in traditional morality. The stakes are very high. Absent a marriage-based culture, can America continue to function as a self-governing republic? History indicates that the chances are slim.

Please support H.B. 516

Patti Kanduch

State Director for Concerned Women for America of Montana