EXHIBIT 10
DATE 1-20-11
HB 20

LEWIS & CLARK CITY-COUNTY
Health Department

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DATE: January 20, 2011

TO: Representative Gary MacLaren, Chair and Committee Members
House Committee on Local Government

RE: Testimony in favor of House Bill 20: An Act Authorizing Counties to Establish Social Host Ordinances

Submitted By: Katie Martin, Prevention Specialist
On behalf of the Lewis & Clark City-County Health Dept. and Board of Health

Thank you Representative MacLaren and members of the committee.

My name is Katie Martin, and I am here on behalf of the Lewis & Clark City-County Health Department and Board of Health.

The Lewis and Clark City-County Board of Health and Health Department strongly support the passage of this bill. In April 2008, after careful review of the public health data from our community and listening to students and parents, the Board adopted a resolution to support the passage of a social host ordinance in the City of Helena. The city went on to pass the Social Host ordinance in July 2008.

A social host ordinance is one important prevention strategy in the broad, community-wide effort to reduce underage alcohol use in our communities. Underage alcohol abuse has strong correlations to increased public health risks including: accidents and death due to drunk driving; teen pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections, physical assault, and suicide. To make this prevention strategy truly effective, it needs to be county-wide—so that city and county jurisdictions are working together to create a community culture which does not support teen drinking.

I have attached a copy of the signed Board of Health resolution. On behalf of the Lewis and Clark City-County Board of Health and Health Department, I urge you to support House Bill 20.

Thank you.

Attachment: Board of Health Resolution.

The mission of the Lewis and Clark City-County Health Department is to improve and protect the health of all Lewis and Clark County residents.

Resolution before the Lewis and Clark City-County Board of Health for Support for Social Host Ordinance to Reduce Underage Alcohol Use in Helena

WHEREAS, consumption of alcoholic beverages by minors and parties where minors consume alcoholic beverages present numerous problems for our community, including public health and safety concerns, and specifically that;

- Montana teens report the highest incidence of binge drinking in the nation (defined as 5 or more drinks in one sitting)
- Lewis and Clark County 12th graders report a binge drinking rate that is even higher than the Montana average
- 666 Minor in Possession violations were issued in Lewis and Clark County in 2006 and one in six 8th grade students reported binge drinking in the two weeks prior to completing the survey
- 71.4% of Lewis and Clark County 8th through 12th grade students report in the 2006 Montana Prevention Needs Assessment that it would be "sort of " or "very" easy to get some beer, wine or hard liquor in our community.

WHEREAS, alcohol use by minors is also linked to several other public health and life issues for our youth including but certainly not limited to sexual assault, DUI related crashes, unprotected sexual activity, teenage pregnancy, STDs, physical assault academic difficulties, and suicide; and,

WHEREAS, the Lewis and Clark City-County Board of Health understands that the purpose of a citywide social host ordinance is to protect public health, safety and general welfare and to reduce the risky health behaviors associated with the consumption of alcohol by minors; and

WHEREAS, according to research by Sloan, Stout, Whetten-Goldstein and Lang (2000) social host ordinances reduce binge drinking and drinking and driving; and according to the National Institute of Health research shows that kids whose parents or friends parents provide alcohol for teen get-togethers are more likely to engage in heavier drinking, to drink more often and to get into traffic crashes; and

WHEREAS, Montana Code Annotated § 7-32-4302, allows the City of Helena to both control disturbances of the peace as well as prevent intoxication and disorderly conduct within the city and within three miles of the limits, which will have an impact on the public health and safety of the Helena and surrounding community.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Lewis and Clark City-County Board of Health supports the passage and approval of a social host ordinance in the City of Helena as one important prevention strategy in our broad, community-wide effort to reduce underage alcohol use in our community and reduce the associated public health risks.

ADOPTED BY THE Lewis and Clark City-County Board of Health on this day, Tuesday April 24, 2008.

Dr. David Krainacker, chair
Lewis & Clark City-County Board of Health