

EXHIBIT 6
DATE 1/28/11
HB 305

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To: House Taxation Committee
From: Mona Jamison, Lobbyist for Shodair Children's Hospital
RE: HB 305
January 28, 2010

PLEASE VOTE NO ON HB 305

Shodair Children's Hospital is beginning its 115th year of service providing specialized care for Montana's most vulnerable population; children. Starting as an orphanage for children abandoned on the streets of Helena, Shodair has grown and adapted to the ever changing needs of this population.

For the past several years Shodair has provided two significant services to the communities of Montana. One is the provision of children's inpatient and residential psychiatric diagnosis and treatment of mental illness. The other is the provision of genetic testing, counseling and education to both children and adults.

Regarding the provision of mental health services, Shodair is the only organization in Montana offering both inpatient and residential treatment under one roof. In addition, Shodair ensures that its facilities are used primarily for Montana kids. Last year over 90% of the children it served were residents of Montana coming from all corners of the state. And the need for this service continues to grow. In 2006, Shodair expanded its inpatient capacity to 20 beds. On many occasions the facility found itself full and unable to take new patients.

Many of the children served at Shodair come from very low income households and are either uninsured or enrolled in the state's Healthy Montana Kids and Kids Plus programs. Last year nearly 60% of the children served were enrolled in these programs. Even though reimbursement levels from these programs are significantly lower than those of other payers, Shodair never turns away acutely ill children based on their insurance coverage or lack thereof. Uninsured and/or underinsured households are offered free or discounted services through Shodair's financial assistance program called ShoCare.

Regarding the provision of genetic testing, counseling and education services, Shodair offers a unique combination of on-site lab services and off-campus counseling and education services dispersed throughout the state in clinic settings. Funding for these services include state contracts and patient charges. Even with these sources of funding, the costs of providing these services are not fully covered. Yet it is the mission of Shodair to continue providing these services as a community benefit to those it serves. As with its inpatient services, uninsured and/or underinsured genetic patients are also offered free or discounted services through the ShoCare program.

In its latest fiscal year ending May 31, 2010, Shodair provided \$124,750 in free or discounted services. And in the first ix months of this fiscal year ending December 31, 2010, Shodair has already given \$76,155 in free or discounted services.

Community Benefit provided by Shodair Children's Hospital

- ❖ **Charity Care**
- ❖ **Bad Debt**
- ❖ **Write Offs - Contractual Allowances**
- ❖ **Sponsor Shodair Soccer Classic**
- ❖ **Health Fairs**
- ❖ **Education Sessions for the public Mental Health 25/yr**
- ❖ **Educational Sessions for professionals Genetic 85/yr**
- ❖ **Sponsor Babe Ruth baseball team**
- ❖ **Major Sponsor for Breast Cancer**
- ❖ **Sponsor varies individual students in high school projects**
- ❖ **Provide education to various civic groups, Various Staff teach at college level**

Very strong program for education at the undergraduate, graduate and post graduate level.

1. Nursing program at Carroll College on site rotation
2. Nursing program MSU Helena and Bozeman rotation
3. School of Pharmacy U of M internship site
4. School of Psychology 1 year internship program
5. School of Education rotation of Ed.D. for school psychology
6. U of M internship site for MSW program
7. Walla Walla University internship site for MSW
8. University of Connecticut Cytogenetic and DNA internship site (1 year)
9. University of Utah Internship site for Genetic Counseling
10. Internships available for Molecular Diagnostic Laboratory
11. Medical School rotation WAMI, Preceptor for Nurse practitioner program

ShoCare *For Affordable Healthcare: A sliding Scale Financial Assistance Program
Designed to help qualified individuals meet their Medical financial responsibilities*