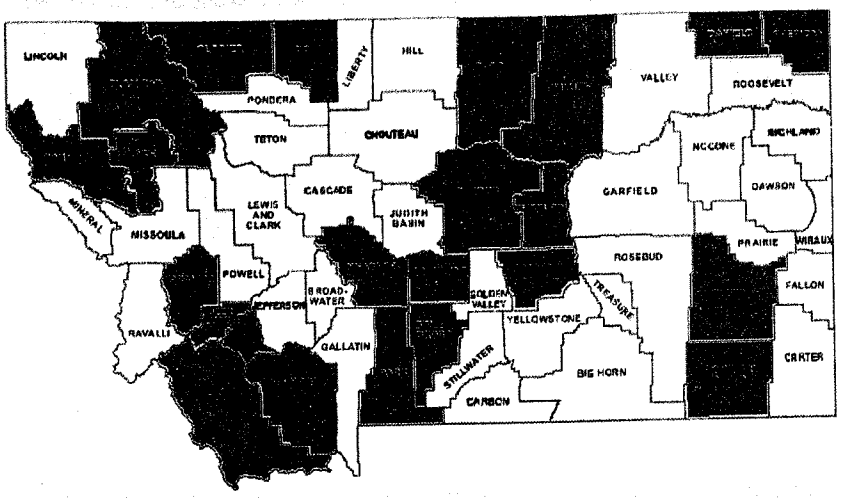
BUSINESS & LABOR
EXHIBIT NO. 12
DATE 2-11-11
BILL NO. SB 272

## Suicide in Montana Counties

The suicide rate in Montana's counties varies from year to year due to small populations in the rural counties that greatly influence the rate of suicide with even one completed suicide. However, over the past seven years, 55% of Montana's counties presented with a suicide rate at or above the 80th percentile when compared to national numbers. During this nine year period, 19 Montana counties had a rate of suicide that was double the national average (Montana Vital Statistics, 2010).




**2000-2008 Rate of Suicide for Montana Counties** (per 100,000 people)

**Counties in Red indicate a Suicide Rate at or above the 90th Percentile Nationally, Yellow counties are above the 80th Percentile**

| County | # of Suicides | Crude Rate | County | # of Suicides | Crude Rate |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| BEAVERHEAD | 21 | 26.2 | MCCONE | 3 | 18.69 |
| BIG HORN | 17 | 14.8 | MEAGHER | 4 | 23.23 |
| BLAINE | 15 | 24.99 | MINERAL | 7 | 20.11 |
| BROADWATER | 7 | 17.46 | MISSOULA | 174 | 19.07 |
| CARBON | 16 | 18.39 | MUSSELSHELL | 11 | 27.56 |
| CARTER | 2 | 17.14 | PARK | 42 | 29.53 |
| CASCADE | 147 | 20.09 | PETROLEUM | 1 | 23.69 |
| CHOUTEAU | 10 | 20.3 | PHILLIPS | 8 | 21.35 |
| CUSTER | 31 | 30.49 | PONDERA | 9 | 16.44 |
| DANIELS | 4 | 24.47 | POWDER RIVER | 4 | 25.17 |
| DAWSON | 13 | 16.67 | POWELL | 13 | 20.62 |
| DEER LODGE | 25 | 30.79 | PRAIRIE | 0 | 0 |
| FALLON | 5 | 20.57 | RAVALLI | 66 | 18.98 |
| FERGUS | 26 | 25.31 | RICHLAND | 14 | 16.91 |
| FLATHEAD | 155 | 21.23 | ROOSEVELT | 19 | 20.4 |
| GALLATIN | 117 | 16.6 | ROSEBUD | 15 | 18.12 |
| GARFIELD | 0 | 0 | SANDERS | 32 | 33.44 |
| GLACIER | 26 | 21.72 | SHERIDAN | 7 | 21.51 |
| GOLDEN VALLEY | 1 | 10.38 | SILVER BOW | 74 | 24.81 |
| GRANITE | 6 | 23.3 | STILLWATER | 14 | 18.5 |
| HILL | 24 | 16.27 | SWEET GRASS | 9 | 27.29 |
| JEFFERSON | 14 | 14.69 | TETON | 7 | 12.57 |
| JUDITH BASIN | 4 | 20.51 | TOOLE | 10 | 21.49 |
| LAKE | 54 | 21.74 | TREASURE | 1 | 15.19 |
| LEWIS & CLARK | 97 | 18.63 | VALLEY | 10 | 15.48 |
| LIBERTY | 0 | 0 | WHEATLAND | 5 | 26.65 |
| LINCOLN | 35 | 20.81 | WIBAUX | 0 | 0 |
| MADISON | 17 | 26.77 | YELLOWSTONE | 202 | 16.61 |

# PRESCRIBING PSYCHOLOGISTS ARE SAFE - SB 272

(Safe, Accessible, Freedom of Choice, Economical - cost savings)

## What's The Problem?

**Provider Shortage.** There is a **critical shortage of qualified prescribers** capable of providing appropriate psychiatric medication treatments.

The majority of psychotropic drugs are prescribed by primary care physicians, physician assistants and advanced practice nurses who have limited mental health training.

**Wait times** to see a psychiatrist typically range from 3 months to a year. Many psychiatrist's practices are simply closed to new patients. Primary care providers are also becoming increasing scarce.

Anyone in crisis, someone in danger a attempting suicide, having thoughts about harming others or in need of immediate intervention, ***cannot wait.***

## Suicide

In Montana we have the **second highest suicide rate (Alaska is first)** in the nation. Suicide is the 8th leading cause of death in Montana.

**An average of one Montanan every other day is dying by suicide.**

**50 Montanans will die by completing suicide during this legislative session.**

## We Offer One Solution

What we are currently doing is not working. People are dying or are needlessly institutionalized.

Allowing psychologists to prescribe is one part of the solution to this crisis as a cost effective integrated mental health care provider. This model of care has proven to be safe and cost-effective.

## Freedom To Choose?

**Yes.** A patient would **still be able to choose** the kind of provider they want to have service from.

*"Prescribing psychologists offer a comprehensive approach to the treatment of mental illness and are trained to recognize that medications are only one tool for effective treatment."*
Earl Sutherland, PhD, MSCP

For more information, please contact:

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## Is It Safe?

**Absolutely.** Clinical doctors of psychology are highly trained mental health professionals. For the past 17 years prescribing psychologists in the military have had **NO complaints.** In New Mexico, prescribing since 2005, **NO complaints** have been filed. In Louisiana, prescribing since 2005, there have also been **NO complaints.** In Indian Health Services, prescribing since 2007, there have been **NO complaints .**

## Education

In this bill, clinical psychologists return to school to earn a **post-doctoral masters degree in psychopharmacology.** In addition, the doctorate-level psychologist in training to prescribe is supervised by an MD while seeing 100 patients (an internship) and must pass a national examination.

## Allowed in the Military

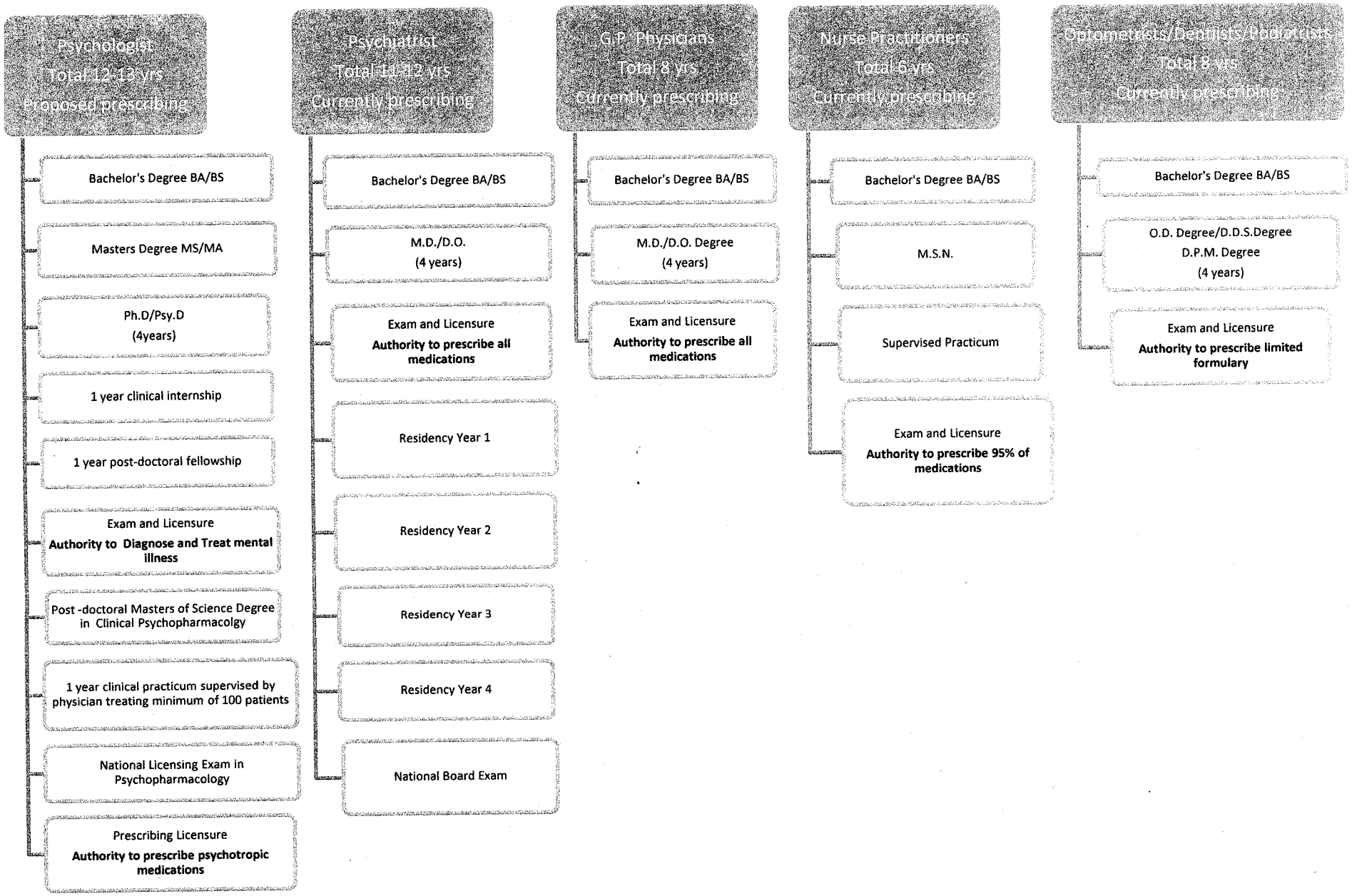
The training is based on a 10-year study within the Department of Defense, and a curriculum model that has been in place since 1996. Prescribing psychologists have been practicing safely in the military for 17 years.

## Is There A Prescribing Psychologist In Montana?

**Yes,** Dr. Earl Sutherland practices with IHS (Indian Health Services) in Hardin. He holds a prescribing psychologist license in New Mexico. Several other psychologists are enrolled in the training.

**Opponents Offer No Solutions.**

## Course Work and Training to Prescribe in Montana

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