

Exhibit No. 5Date 3-22-11Bill No. HB 230

Leading Quality Addiction Treatment in the Northern Rockies
February 27, 2011

TO: Members of the Senate Finance Committee

FROM: Board of Directors and staff of Rimrock Foundation [N=160]

RE: HB 230- Moving the Board of Crime Control to Corrections

We are opposed to this bill and urge you to oppose it as well. The history of the Montana Board of Crime Control is that it has been a vehicle for federal dollars to flow to communities to fund prevention, treatment, and enforcement projects which would otherwise not exist. For example, many years ago now, the MBCC seeded the development of Rimrock's Addiction Prevention Library—the first and still the only such library in Montana. This library contains the latest information and videos, etc., on addiction and has become an important resource for area-wide schools. It is a library in which schools can call and order materials for the classroom and have them mailed. Educators will tell you just how important this is particularly to small schools.

A second important project, and a current one, is the funding for a jail-based treatment program which Rimrock operates in partnership with our detention facility. This program has taken historic recidivism rates for the misdemeanor population in the jail from 70% to 7% this past fiscal year! There is no other source of funds for this program because, as you know, counties and municipalities are strapped.

Why then do we oppose SB 230? Because if it is folded into corrections we do not expect any commitment from them to fund community-based pilot or demonstration projects by private programs like Rimrock. The history of corrections is that all funds go to incarceration projects or to help defray the reduction in their budget. You are being told there will be no difference if this major change is accomplished—don't believe it! The source of the funds in Washington, tell us very differently. All existing programs and grants would have to be re-authorized—a project that could easily consume a year—not the 30 days the bill's sponsor is claiming.

This bill is not in the interest of our counties and communities as they seek to develop diversion programs which ultimately save dollars for the criminal justice system. Please oppose this bill.