



SENATE JUDICIARY
CASE NO. 21
2/10/11
SB 17, 18

Montana Association of Counties

Serving Montana Counties Since 1909

2715 SKYWAY DRIVE, SUITE A, HELENA, MT 59602

(406) 444-4360 Fax (406) 442-5238

www.maco.cog.mt.us

February 10, 2011

Honorable Senator Murphy and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

Please find attached for the record, letters in opposition of SB's 17 & 18 from the following counties:

Broadwater

Fergus

Glacier

Lake

Pondera

Ravalli

Rosebud

Sheridan

Valley

Regards,

Greg Chilcott, Chair

MACo Justice & Public Safety Committee

MACo 2nd Vice President

Ravalli County Commissioner



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February 9, 2011

Senate Judicial Committee

Re: SB17 & SB 18

Dear Committee Members:

The Montana Association of Counties' Justice & Public Safety Committee voted unanimously to oppose both SB 17 and SB 18 based on the following:

- Other elected officials don't have the same autonomy.
- Juvenile detention requires a different skill set and expertise than adult detention.
- If passed, these decisions divide the relationship between sheriff and commissioners.
- The bills don't address the financial implications, which will likely fall upon the counties.
- There is likelihood that the sheriff would need their own insurance policy and HR personnel.
- The bills don't address where the funds come from for settlements and judgments.
- The bills give expenditure authority without budget authority.
- These bills are in response to one issue in one county.
- County contracting authority for detention facility is removed.
- There are no checks and balances in the decision matrix.
- If someone is fired incorrectly, the county is still responsible.

Sincerely,

Greg Chilcott

Chair, MACo Justice & Public Safety Committee

2nd Vice President, MACo

Ravalli County Commissioner