

April 13, 2011

The Honorable Terry Murphy
Chairman
Senate Judiciary Committee
State Capitol
Helena, Montana

Chairman Murphy:

I'm pleased to be in contact with you and your committee, in strong support of **SJ 30**, a resolution to initiate an interim study examining data and generating recommendations to reduce childhood trauma in Montana.

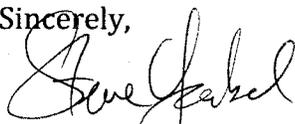
I offer this endorsement of behalf of two organizations. One is the **Montana Council for Maternal & Child Health** – a coalition of physical and mental health providers and community advocates for children. The other is the **Montana Advocates for Children** – the coalition of early childhood and child care service providers in Montana.

This study is sorely needed, and the resolution is comprehensively written in such a way as to bring all Montana communities into focus on many, if not all causes of childhood trauma.

In tough budget times, it is too often the concept of prevention that gets lost. It's a shortsighted tactic that serves little good and only compounds budget problems in the next biennium. This resolution assures that careful attention will be paid to the issue, and that recommendations will be ready for the members of the 63rd Montana Legislature to act upon.

We urge your support of this resolution.

Sincerely,



Steve Yeakel, CAE

cc: Members