

Written Testimony in Opposition of HB 516

March 8, 2011

Submitted by:

Susan Reahard

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Dear Chairperson Jon Sonju and members of the Senate Local Government Committee,

I am writing you today to voice my concerns and the concerns of other for HB 516. I am the co-editor for Out Words, the state wide LQBT newspaper. I recently went to Helena to testify against this bill in the house committee and was not given the opportunity to voice my opinions. Many others in attendance that day were also not given the opportunity to testify. This prompted the Out Words staff to reach out to the people who wanted to publicly share their opinions and give them a plat form to have a voice. The responses we received were both heartening and heartbreaking. In our most recent issue we published the testimonies we received un-edited and in their true voice. I have included a copy of the paper of each committee member and I would appreciate it if you would take a minute to review what our readers have said. I appreciate your time and consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Susan Reahard

Co-editor

Out Words

*"The voice of Montana's LGBTIQ Community"*