

**Montana Nurses Association**

20 Old Montana State Highway 1 Clancy, MT 56934  
(406) 442-6710 Voice 1 (406) 442-1841 Fax  
[www.mtnurses.org](http://www.mtnurses.org) [info@mtnurses.org](mailto:info@mtnurses.org)

EXHIBIT No. \_\_\_\_\_

1

Bill No.

2/2/2011

SB 210

February 2, 2011  
LaDonna Maxwell, APRN  
Montana Nurses Association, Board of Directors  
294 Wilson Butte Road  
Great Falls, Montana

Dear Chairman and Committee Members:

The Montana Nurses Association supports SB210. Prescription narcotic abuse kills 300 of our residents and patients every year. Prescription drugs are the choice for our teenagers. We rank 3rd in the nation for abuse of dangerous prescriptions.

Currently when a person is identified who is "Doctor Shopping" there are no laws that allow communication between healthcare providers and law enforcement due to confidentiality issues which this bill would fix.

We don't believe that Senate Bill 210 would jeopardize health care confidentiality **but it would** allow communication between different organizations to help get illicitly obtained narcotics off the street.

I run a private family practice clinic in Great Falls and I have been a Nurse Practitioner with prescriptive authority for 17 years and a Registered Nurse for 28 years. I see 3-5 patients per week looking for Narcotics to divert. Last week I had a patient who had signed pain contracts with 3 providers and was hoping to make us her 4th. She had used 6 different pharmacies trying to cover her tracks. She had received in 1 month's time 360 Vicodin, 400 benzodiazepines, and 60 Ms contin tablets. She did not divulge she had received multiple prescriptions from multiple providers and pharmacies. And, she said she hadn't received narcotics in over a year. In other words, she knowingly falsified her history. We didn't give her any drugs.

She obviously was not taking all these medications. These meds were probably being sold on the streets and maybe even to our children.

This is just one case of many we see daily. We need a law which would make this kind of activity illegal. **And** we need to be able to stop this type of behavior which may be hurting our children.

**We urge your support of Senate Bill 210.**

Thank you for your time  
LaDonna Maxwell, APRN

Submitted by Don Judge on behalf of LaDonna Maxwell.

Montana Nurses Association is the voice for registered and advanced practice nurses in Montana. We are an advocate for our patients. This legislation would increase public safety and aid in the welfare of Montana residents.