EXHIBIT 22
DATE 03/25/2013
HB 590

NARAL
Pro-Choice Montana Foundation

Good afternoon Chairman, members of the committee:

For the record my name is Kim Leighton and I represent NARAL Pro-Choice Montana, the state's largest grassroots organization dedicated solely to reproductive rights. We represent 1,200 members and 5,000 activists statewide.

We stand in full support of House Bill 590.

Medicaid expansion is a good move for Montana. It will serve to protect and ensure healthcare benefits for over 60,000 citizens in our state who currently do not have insurance. It will boost our economy by creating 14,000 new jobs in the healthcare industry. The demand for doctors, nurses and other medical staff will increase, which will ultimately provide more opportunities and more revenue for the State of Montana.

NARAL Pro-Choice Montana advocates for and promotes the full range of preventative and reproductive healthcare choices. It is an inherent right for the people of Montana to have those same choices when they are sick or hurt. Without adequate coverage, these choices are not available. Expanding the Medicaid program will provide benefits to many more Montanans who otherwise are ineligible, and unable to access the healthcare services they need.

This legislative body has a very unique opportunity to do something important for the people of Montana. We have the resources and capability to provide healthcare benefits, improve the economy and all at very little cost to the state.

For these reasons we respectfully urge a Do Pass on House Bill 590.