



EXHIBIT 5
DATE 4/3/13
SB 298



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2/25/13

Dear Leaders of the State of Montana:

The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study has demonstrated the childhood exposure to abuse, neglect, domestic violence, separation or divorce, or having household members impaired by alcohol or drug abuse, mental illness, or sent to prison are common in all segments of our society. ACEs tend to cluster in the lives of children and have a cumulative toxic effect on brain development.

This set of circumstances is a common pathway to leading causes of death such as heart disease, lung disease and diabetes as well as addiction, mental illness, school failure, violence and victimization later in life and myriad other health and social problems.

We now have compelling information from the citizens of Montana that demonstrates that ACEs create an ongoing public health crisis across your own state. **Montana has the opportunity to be a leader**—along with a handful of other states—to use this information to launch educational campaigns to empower communities to prevent ACEs and treat persons of all ages that have been affected by them.

The data from Montana's own Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System about ACEs comes with responsibility to use it. Evidence from other states proves that community-based training and awareness can lead to change.

Dr. Robert Anda
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Co-Founder, ACE Interface, LLC


ChildWise Institute
Board member

