



CITY OF BILLINGS

CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
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EXHIBIT 2
DATE 3/8/2013
SB 306

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March 7, 2013

Representative Kerns, Chair
House Judiciary Committee

RE: SB 306

Dear Chairman Kerns and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

The Billings City Attorney's Office wishes to submit this letter of support in favor of SB 306, which seeks to eliminate the language, "with a person of the opposite sex," from the definition of "partners" found in the Partner or Family Member Assault statute – Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-206(2)(b).

Over the years, our office has seen same-sex domestic violence offenders receive softer penalties since we can only charge them under the Assault statute – Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-201. We are therefore in support of SB 306 and its intent to punish domestic violence offenders equally, regardless of their sexual orientation.

Sincerely,

Brent Brooks
Billings City Attorney