

EXHIBIT 4
DATE 3/26/2013
HB 613

March 24, 2013

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing in regard to HB613 introduced by Representative Jean Price (D-Great Falls). As I understand it, this bill would provide \$300,000 from the general fund to be appropriated to victim's services programs throughout Montana.

As a victim's service provider for 12 years in Granite County, I respectfully ask you to consider supporting HB613. The funding for our victim's services has come from VOCA monies since 2001. Each year there is less money to continue to provide victim's services.

In fact, our program in Granite County ran out of operating and travel funding in Dec. of 2012, leaving the advocate to donate travel expenses and expenses for supplies and cell phone for the rest of the fiscal year until the end of June.

Since 2001 I have seen an increase of over 30% in numbers of victims served annually since the inception of the VOCA program. Each year we receive less VOCA funding.

We are a remote rural community, and I serve victims who live in a 17,000 square mile area and are served by a very small law enforcement agency and only one victim's advocate.

Granite County depends solely on its annual VOCA grant monies to continue to provide essential services for victims of crime. The VOCA grant is the only sustaining funding available to us which addresses the many needs of our victims.

I respectfully ask you to support HB613. Without additional financial support, I am very concerned about the sustainability of our victim's services in Granite County and our entire state.

Most Respectfully,

T.J. Vietor, Granite County Victim/Witness Advocate