BUSINESS & LABOR
EXHIBIT NO. 2
DATE 2-12-13
BILL NO. SB 230

Senate Business, Labor, and Economic Affairs Committee
February 12, 2013 hearing on SB 230
Revise laws governing board of speech-language pathologists and audiologists

Proponent Testimony from Bob Hanson

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Let me offer my full support for the subject proposed legislation. My principal reason is the unsatisfactory responses we interested parties in the Upper West Shore School District received to our phone queries of the Office of Public Instruction (*i.e.*, "We don't do it that way in Montana.") I, for one, was thoroughly dissatisfied with such a response after pointing out the shortage of qualified speech therapists that would even consider serving our small, rural school. We also pointed out that we, in concert with the County Superintendent, had identified an out-of-state source for this needed treatment of our students.

The language of SB 230 appears to satisfy our legitimate concerns without placing undue burdens on any qualified out-of-state providers. I believe that its passage would relieve our parents of their justifiable concerns for their children while affording professional language therapy services to their children. The ability to acquire these services on-line is especially supported in light of the apparent "inconvenience" we have experienced in getting an actual person to our rural area.

Respectfully,
Bob Hanson
P.O. Box 158
Dayton, MT 59914

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Proponent Testimony from Kristy Bick, Supervising Teacher, Dayton Schools

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for accepting my written testimony in support of SB 230. I am unable to attend today's hearing, as I am in school with my students at the Dayton School (Upper West Shore School). Dayton School is a public school serving 41 students who live in and around Dayton, Montana.

Despite searching all over Western Montana, Dayton School was unable to find a speech pathologist that could provide in-person services to our students for the 2012-2013 school year. Dayton School did find an online speech class for our students with a leading provider of online speech therapy services. SB 230 would enable Dayton Schools to provide the speech therapy our students need in a cost-effective manner that produces improved student outcomes. Please recommend a "do pass" on SB 230 so that Dayton School and other rural schools throughout Montana can provide necessary speech therapy services to their students when in-person services are not available.

Sincerely,
Kristy Bick
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