

Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies  
The Montana Coalition

Melisa Kaiser Synness  
Executive Director

SENATE FINANCE & CLAIMS <sup>3</sup>  
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Date 1-14-13  
[www.hmhb-mt.org](http://www.hmhb-mt.org)  
Bill No. SB 58

January 15, 2013

**HMHB-MT Board**

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**Executive Director**

Melisa Kaiser Synness

TO: The Senate Finance and Claims Committee  
FROM: Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies - MT  
RE: SB 58 "An Act Transferring Money from State General Fund to the Endowment for Children"

Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies is a statewide non-profit that ensures that no Montana babies 0-3 are in jeopardy and instead are welcome, safe, healthy and treasured. We have been serving Montana families for 29 years.

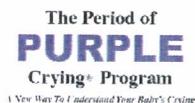
We are here today to speak on behalf of The MT Children's Trust Fund. The MT Children's Trust Fund is *THE* entity that is tasked with prevention of childhood trauma and maltreatment in Montana. For years there has been a lack of prevention resources for ages 0-3, and that puts a strain on the entire health care system. It is imperative to invest our public dollars on evidence based programs at the grassroots level that improve and enhance infant brain development and overall wellness if we want to reduce the devastating impact of adverse childhood experiences (ACE).

Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Montana was recently awarded a contract for \$109,905 from the MT Children's Trust Fund (MT CTF) to carry out the PURPLE Montana program.

Through PURPLE Montana our goal is to reach 100% of the approximately 12,500 babies and their parents each year to educate about the normalcy of infant crying. "Dose One" of our program is to bring the Period of PURPLE Crying education to parents during their time at the hospital.

We are proud to say we are 40% to that goal, having implemented PURPLE in 12 hospitals that serve 6,212 infants and their parents statewide.

Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies ensures that no Montana babies zero to three are in jeopardy, and instead are welcome, safe, healthy and, treasured!



One reason the MT CTF chose us to carry out the PURPLE Montana Program is because we work hard to collaborate with other public and private entities. In addition to the MT CTF Board we have been working with the MHA (an Association of Montana Healthcare Providers), all of our individual community hospitals (as shown on the attached map). And we have just received the first of three gifts of \$10,000 from the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation.

As excellent stewards of their precious resources, you can feel confident that the MT Children's Trust Fund will continue to build a system of services that support and educate parents to strengthen Montana families for decades to come.

Sincerely,



Melisa Kaiser Synness  
Executive Director